



# FROM WAR TO WAR

11/15 P Bhattacharya  
Date 12/11/63 —

*By the same Author*

## S T A L I N

(in Hutchinson's Sixpenny Pocket Specials)

The book which explains how the German-Soviet Pact became possible

### OPINIONS

"This is an important book. . . Mr. Graham indicates the key to the mystery when he says that, realist though he is, Stalin lives in a world of make-believe"—*Times Literary Supplement*

"This cheap edition brought bang up to date"—*Cat Head*.

"Readable and acute, a good sixpennyworth"—*Daily Telegraph*

"Joseph the enigma emerges as vivid and colourful a figure as Hitler."—*News Review*.

"A book of remarkable objectivity."—*Bristol Evening Post*

"Excellent pen portrait . . it is certainly luminous and impressive, and its value is enhanced by the fact that its language is readily understood"—*East Anglian Daily Times*

## PREFACE

**I**N our life History has begun to move much faster, and is not the jog-trot quiet chronicle it used to be. We know the saying "Happy is the land whose history is dull." Our Europe which has now such a lively history is necessarily unhappy. Ours is an age of catastrophes. England has been reasonably happy, but now the troubles of the continent have overlapped our quiet. We have been made partakers in the universal distress. And for that reason the history of unhappy states has become our history also. We have made common cause with the unfortunate. As a leading statesman lately expressed our relationship to the European states as a whole "We have become members one of another."

For that reason we ought, all through these parlous years, to have kept abreast of world history. That has been difficult, just because "disaster has followed fast, and followed faster." In the rush to keep level with the march of time we have found it difficult to keep clear in our minds what happened only a few years before, or recall just when it was certain things of vital import did take place. There has been a drift of great

events over all our minds. To put it in more vulgar phrase : we have been snowed under by great events.

In the midst of a discussion, it is found that a whole argument depends upon a date, and as likely as not the speaker is very hazy about that date. Even those extremely well versed in recent history are hard put to it to say offhand in which year some extremely significant happening occurred. Conscientious journalists are for ever turning over the back files of newspapers. Even commentators for the B.B.C. cannot without risk give dates extempore.

I have compiled this date book to supply a want I have often myself felt. I do not apologise for its compressed form. To have filled it out with circumstantial verbiage would have produced a volume of a thousand pages. One too easily loses oneself in these large tomes. The writers of them also get lost, or they omit some of those most important items, precise dates of events. This small volume supplies a chronological ground plan for larger works, gives detail for essays and lectures. It is like those jottings one makes before going on to the platform to make a speech. It is a book to dip into, to browse in, a stimulant for thought and reflection, not a book to be read straight on, though the cumulative effect of the time sequence is something not to be missed. In truth, properly understood, one event leads to another throughout, like the

pictures in those popular "Panoramas of the Lord Mayor's Show"

I have begun this date book with the Russian Revolution in 1917, because I think the dethronement of Capitalism and the setting up of the first Totalitarian state is more significant starting point than Princip's shot in Sarajevo. The war of 1914-18 arose out of Prussian militarism and the pretensions of Germany and Austria to hegemony in the Balkans, the *drang nach osten*. The war of 1939 may seem like a continuation of the old war, but it is waged in a Europe which has been made very different from the 1914 Europe. Kings and Emperors have been replaced by dictators. Politics has come to mean more than trade, ideology more than money. The influence of aristocracies has waned. The guidance of professors and learned men is ridiculed. The Press has been enslaved by bureaus.

War in itself is nothing new. But the revolution in Russia made a new starting point in world history, introducing the new type of conflict called class war. There are now two wars being waged concurrently, a war of powers and the class war. For that reason the history of the present time may be understood as a continuation of the Russian Revolution rather than as a continuation of the struggle against militarism, democratic Capitalism in a defensive war against ever-encroaching Totalitarianism—Liberty at bay.

STEPHEN GRAHAM



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## 1926

GERMANY ENTERED THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS  
 GENERAL STRIKE IN BRITAIN  
 Financial Crisis in France, owing to fall of franc  
 to 235  
 Herriot resigned and Poincaré rescued the franc.  
 Death of Pashitch  
 In Poland, Pilsudski became Dictator

## 1927

Arcos Premises in London raided DIPLOMATIC  
 RELATIONSHIP with the U.S.S.R. broken off  
 Chiang Kai-shek conquered Northern China  
 LITVINOV PROPOUNDED COMPLETE DISARMAMENT  
 Lindbergh flew the Atlantic.

## 1928

THE KELLOGG PACT  
 Boom of Stock Exchange gambling in the United  
 States  
 Trotsky banished to Russian Central Asia.  
 Murder of Stepan Raditch in the Parliament House,  
 Belgrade.  
 HERBERT HOOVER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.

## 1929

THE GREAT WALL STREET STOCK EXCHANGE CRASH  
 Dictatorship in Jugoslavia.  
 "SOCIALISM IN OUR TIME" Election in Britain, and  
 the second LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE.  
 Recommendation of the YOUNG PLAN for complete  
 settlement of German Reparations

1930

THE INDIAN ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE OPENED IN LONDON.

The Young Plan ratified and applied.

SENSATIONAL NAZI VICTORIES IN THE GERMAN ELECTIONS

Death of Primo de Rivera

LONG LINE OF FAILURES OF AMERICAN BANKS

WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION SET IN.

Carol became King of Rumania

The Destruction of the British airship R 101.

Sir Oswald Mosley resigned from Labour Cabinet.

1931

THE FALL OF THE GOLD POUND.

Split in British Labour Party

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN.

Abdication of King Alfonso. SPAIN BECAME A REPUBLIC

Hoover granted a MORATORIUM on all Foreign Government Debts

Failure of the Darmstädter Bank.

1932

THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.

Conclusion of First Five-Year Plan in U.S.S.R.

Japanese War for Manchuria.

Irish Free State withheld Annuities from Britain

Suicide of Kreuger.

BEGINNING OF GENERAL DEFAULT ON AMERICAN WAR DEBTS

THE SOVIET-POLISH NON-AGGRESSION PACT MADE

## 1933

HITLER'S COMPLETE VICTORY BEGINNING OF NAZI REGIME.

INTRODUCTION OF ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL.

GERMANY ANNOUNCED HER INTENTION TO QUIT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

FAILURE OF THE GENEVA DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

THE BURNING OF THE REICHSTAG.

PROHIBITION REPEALED IN AMERICA.

THE BALKAN PACT SIGNED.

SOVIET POLISH CONVENTION ON NON AGGRESSION.

## 1934

ASSASSINATION OF DOLFLIN.

ASSASSINATION OF KING ALEXANDER OF YUGOSLAVIA.

ASSASSINATION OF SCHLEICHER, RÖHM AND OTHERS IN GERMANY.

ASSASSINATION OF KIROV IN LENINGRAD.

GERMANY AND POLAND SIGNED A TEN YEARS' PEACE PACT.

THE U.S.S.R. BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

DEATH OF HINDENBURG.

## 1935

JUBILEE OF KING GEORGE V.

Laval signed Pact with Mussolini.

ITALIAN INVASION OF ABYSSINIA.

Hoare's Speech at Geneva.

British General Election on "Collective Security".

SANCTIONS IMPOSED.

The Hoare-Laval Proposed Compromise on Abyssinia.

Benesch became President of Czechoslovakia.

Stoyadinovitch became Premier of Jugoslavia.

SAAR PLEBISCITE.

German Air Force announced to be equal to that of Britain.

Czechoslovakia signed a Pact of Mutual Assistance with the U.S.S.R.

1936

- THE OUTBREAK OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR.  
 The Arab Rising in Palestine  
 Death of King George V.  
 ABDICATION OF EDWARD VIII.  
 Subjugation of Abyssinia by Italy.  
 Kamenev and Zinovief Shot.  
 HITLER MARCHED INTO THE RHINELAND.  
 Hitler denounced the Waterways Section of the Versailles Treaty  
 The Popular Front began its career in France under M. Blum  
 THE NON-INTERVENTION IN SPAIN PACT.

1937

- OUTBREAK OF JAPANESE WAR ON CHINA  
 Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth  
 Italy left the League of Nations  
 NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN BECAME PRIME MINISTER OF BRITAIN.  
 Lord Halifax sent to Germany to sound Hitler.  
 TUKHACHEVSKY AND SEVEN BOLSHEVIK ARMY COMMANDERS SHOT IN THE U.S.S.R.  
 Death of Masaryk  
 Italian Treaty of Friendship with Jugoslavia

1938

- GERMANY SEIZED AUSTRIA.  
 Munich Settlement of German Minority Question in Czechoslovakia  
 ANGLO-GERMAN MUNICH AGREEMENT barring War between the two countries.  
 Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.  
 THE GREAT NOVEMBER POGROM OF GERMAN JEWS  
 Rikof, Bukharin and Yageda shot for treason.  
 Great Britain recognised the Italian Empire in Abyssinia.  
 THE DEATH OF KEMAL ATATURK.

## 1939

LIQUIDATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC BY  
GERMANY AND HUNGARY

The Germans took Memel

THE ITALIANS ANNEEXED ALBANIA

Capitulation of the Spanish Government to General  
Franco

King George and Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and  
the United States.

The British Government guaranteed the Independence  
of Rumania, Greece and Poland

Failure of the Anglo-Soviet Negotiations

THE GERMAN-SOVIET NEUTRALITY PACT SIGNED BY  
RIBBENTROP AND MOLOTOV AT MOSCOW

GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND

BRITAIN AND FRANCE AT WAR WITH THE REICH

Japan U.S.S.R. Armistice.

BOLSHEVIK INVASION OF POLAND

SECOND GERMAN-SOVIET PACT

PARTITION OF POLAND

SOVIET TROOPS INVADE FINLAND

U.S.S.R. EXPELLED FROM LEAGUE OF NATIONS



## THE YEAR OF LENIN

THE YEAR 1917



### *CHIEF EVENTS*

America entered the War

The Russian Revolution



**I**N March there was a mutiny in certain Guard regiments in Petrograd, accompanied by a revolt of the Putilov munition workers. Liberal leaders in the Russian parliament (Duma) demanded a constitutional government on a completely democratic basis. Confronted by an ultimatum from the political leaders, the Tsar of Russia chose to abdicate both on behalf of himself and of his son, rather than renounce the autocracy. A Provisional Government was set up. This is commonly called the MARCH REVOLUTION.

In the summer, the Liberal leader Milyukof fled to Paris. In the autumn, Kerensky, the Independent Labour Leader, likewise fled, being unable to cope with the proletarian revolutionary ferment. The revolutionary councils of factory workers and mutinous soldiers, led by Lenin, Trotsky and Zinoviev, assumed control of Russia. These councils were known as soviets, and they are the origin of "Soviet rule." The victory of the Soviets is called the OCTOBER REVOLUTION.



THE TUN VARIO TRIUMPH SIGHT IN THE PORTUGUESE CHURCH





THE YEAR OF ARMISTICE  
THE YEAR 1918

\*

CHIEF EVENTS

The German Revolution.  
THE ARMISTICE.



## *GERMANY*

**M**ARCH saw the great German offensive against the British front and an advance to the approaches of Amiens. It was followed by a similar onslaught upon the French with cries of "Nach Paris!"

By the summer the final fury of the Germans had spent itself. The victories of the spring proved equivalent to defeats, because the morale of the German nation had broken. The effects of revolutionary propaganda began to be felt.

Lenin had concluded peace with the Germans at Brest-Litovsk and the German soldiers returning from the Russian front had seen an army run by soviets of rank and file. They brought this revolutionary example back to Germany.

As Foch began to drive the German armies back throughout the summer and early autumn, Communist propaganda among soldiers, sailors and factory workers intensified. In October there was MUTINY IN THE GERMAN FLEET. When the battleships and cruisers were ordered to steam out for a final encounter with the British, the crews extinguished the fires in the vessels. The red flag was hoisted on all warships. At the same time commercial vessels entering Hamburg,

Lubeck and other ports were seen to be flying the red flag also.

November opened with strikes, revolutionary parades of workers, mutinies in the army. Soviets were formed and they took control of Berlin and other cities. To save Germany from a Marxist revolution the ruling politicians hastened to proclaim a republic (the WEIMAR REPUBLIC). The KAISER FLED TO HOLLAND.

Later Germany refused to be known officially as a republic, preferring to keep the designation Reich. The Weimar Republic was the SECOND REICH. At a subsequent date, see 1933, under Hitler, Germany became known as the Third Reich.

The Marxist movement (called the SPARTACUS MOVEMENT), under the leadership of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg (known as Red Rosa), menaced the new bourgeois republic and the propertied classes. So the Government hastened to accept terms of armistice.

On November 11th, Germany surrendered to her enemies in the war. The surrender is known as THE ARMISTICE.

### RUSSIA

In Russia the civil wars of the revolution had commenced.

On April 18th General Kornilov, military

leader of the Constitutional Democrats, was defeated KORNILOF was KILLED in action

In the summer there was a conspiracy of the Social Revolutionary Party against the Bolsheviks The S.R.s, as an act of provocation, perpetrated the ASSASSINATION of MIRBACH, the German Ambassador

On July 16th, on the orders of Lenin, the Tsar NICHOLAS II was PUT TO DEATH, together with the Tsaritsa and her children

In August, plot of the Social Revolutionaries to kill the Bolshevik leaders August 30th, ATTEMPT on life of LENIN Moses Uritsky assassinated

In the autumn there was confident expectation of the setting up of a German Soviet Republic and of world revolution Meanwhile the forces of counter revolution became more menacing to Bolshevik rule Admiral Kolchak, monarchist, became commander of a large army in Siberia, and on November 18th proclaimed himself dictator

In view of the revolution in Germany, the Bolshevik Government denounced the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, but could not resume the lost territories because the Poles, Rumanians and other border nations were hostile Rumania over ran Bessarabia.

*GREAT BRITAIN*

November 11th, the ARMISTICE.

Following upon Armistice, there was the self-demobilisation of many soldiers.

In December took place the first General Election since before the War. It was the election in which the demobilised soldiers were promised HOMES FOR HEROES, and the poor RARE AND REFRESHING FRUIT. In Press and on platform there was the HANG THE KAISER campaign.

The election was won by the Lloyd George Coalition of Liberals and Conservatives. Asquith led a Liberal opposition, but only won 26 seats. This showed the beginning of the WANL or LIBERALISM in Great Britain and the RISE of LABOUR.

THE YEAR OF THE VERSAILLES TREATY  
THE YEAR 1919



*CHIEF EVENTS*

The signing of the TREATY OF VERSAILLES.  
Soviet Republics set up in Bavaria and Hungary  
Bolshevik victories on all fronts in the Russian Civil  
War  
AMERICA REFUSED TO RATIFY THE PEACE TREATY OR  
TO ENTER THE LEAGUE.



## GERMANY

**O**N January 15th, KARL LIEBKEIT and ROSA LUXEMBURG KILLED They had been arrested by order of the Government, but were shot dead by German officers as they were being conveyed to prison. The death of the leaders checked the progress of the Spartacus movement in Berlin.

On February 21st KURT LISNER was ASSASSINATED He was a Polish Jew who had made himself revolutionary leader in Bavaria.

In March, CORPORAL ADOLF HITLER, revolted by Sovietism in the army, DECIDED TO FORM A NEW POLITICAL PARTY for the regeneration of the German people.

On April 6th a SOVIET REPUBLIC was proclaimed in MUNICH Ernst Toller, a Jewish dramatist, was chairman of the Bavarian Soviet and became commander of its irregular forces. Troops were sent to disperse the Communist government. Toller was arrested and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. (Later he fled into exile. In 1939, he committed suicide in New York.)

Brunswick also set up a petty Soviet republic, but the revolutionaries were dispersed by Govern-

ment troops. The revolutionary ferment made a parlous background for the German delegates at Versailles, considering the terms of peace being dictated by the Allies. In June, the GERMAN FLEET WAS SUNK BY ITS OWN SAILORS at SCAPA FLOW.

On June 28th GERMANY SIGNED THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES.

On August 14th, the Weimar Constitution for all Germany was promulgated. FREDERICK EBERT became PRESIDENT. He was a saddler by trade, the leader of the Majority Social Democrats in the Weimar Assembly. Scheidemann became Chancellor of the Reich.

### *AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY*

The Austrians had surrendered to the Italians. The Hungarians, Czechs and Poles declared their independence.

Social Democrats and Christian Socialists came into power in Austria after the abdication of the Emperor.

On September 10th the Republic of Austria signed the TREATY OF ST. GERMAIN.

Defeat in the War caused a revolutionary ferment in Hungary and Lenin sent the Jewish Communist, Bela Kun, to direct the revolution and win Hungary for Marxism. On April 6th commenced the COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP of

## BELA KUN - Hungary became the Hungarian Soviet Republic

From April 6th till August 1st raged the Communist terror in Hungary. On August 2nd, menaced by a Rumanian army and Monarchist forces, Bela Kun fled to Vienna and thence back to Moscow. He continued to be a prominent member of the Communist Party and was made governor of the Crimea. Ultimately he was secretly arrested and shot by the Communists themselves (1938).

The Hungarian ruling class wished to revive the Habsburg monarchy. This was not allowed, so the dictator of the new state assumed the title of Regent.

*Note*—The experience of Sovietism in Bavaria and Hungary in 1919 left an indelible mark in political consciousness. Hence, at a later date, the entente of Nazi Germany and Hungary in the ANTI KOMINTERN PACT. The word 'komintern' is a brevity for 'Communist International'.

## POLAND

On January 26th was held the first General Election of members of the parliament (the Sejm) of the new Polish Republic. The musician Paderewski, was the first prime minister, Marshal Pilsudski was commander of the forces.

On February 24th the Republic of Poland was recognised by France on the 27th by Great Britain.

On June 28th Polish delegates appended their signature to the Treaty of Versailles. The main territory of Germany had been severed from East Prussia by the new Polish province of Pomerania, extending to the Baltic, the POLISH CORRIDOR. Danzig was made a free city, no longer incorporated in the Reich.

Half of the Duchy of Teschen, which Poland coveted, went to Czechoslovakia. The Poles were discontented with the terms of the peace treaty, as they had aspired to much more extensive territory. It was felt that Paderewski had failed and in December he was obliged to resign.

### SERBIA

Serbia changed its name, to become the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The new state took Croatia and the Banat from Hungary, and Dalmatia and Slovenia from Austria. As Italy had been promised the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic, a feud commenced between the Italians and the Serbs. In September the Italians attempted to take some of this Adriatic sea-board by force and D'ANNUNZIO TOOK FIUMI.

### RUSSIA

Denikin became general commander of the Monarchist and Constitutional Democrats

forces in South Russia, with Anglo-French support In the course of the first ten months of the year he advanced into the heart of Russia, and was within striking distance of Moscow On June 25th he took Kharkhof, on August 9th he took Kief, in September he took Kursk, and in October he had taken Oryel and threatened Tula

Meanwhile Admiral Kolchak, supported by the Czech Legion made up of liberated prisoners of war, took control of Siberia

On June 14th British and French recognised Kolchak as supreme ruler of Russia, Regent for a Tsar, until a monarchy could be re-established

A third commander, Yudenitch, with British support advanced on Petrograd from a base in Estonia

On August 3rd a British expeditionary force was defeated by the Bolsheviks near Onega On August 27th British troops occupied Archangel

In the late autumn the Soviet forces rallied on all fronts Yudenitch was routed There was a Bolshevik counter offensive in western Siberia and a rising of Social Revolutionaries in eastern Siberia. The Czech Legion, avoiding major conflict, retreated rapidly, carrying with it the Imperial gold treasure Being in jeopardy, the Czechs seized all trains for the transport of

their men and baggage. On December 27th they arrested Kolchak's train.

By the end of the year there was no further menace to the Revolution in Siberia. And in Russia proper the armies of Denikin were in headlong retreat.

**THIS YEAR ALL BRITISH PROPERTY IN RUSSIA WAS CONFISCATED.**

### *UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*

On September 20th President Woodrow Wilson was stricken by paralysis.

President Wilson had been touring America, on a whirlwind campaign of speechmaking, explaining the League of Nations Covenant and the Treaty of Versailles to the American people. He overdid it, much as Joseph Chamberlain overdid it in his great Tariff Reform campaign of 1906 when he became crippled in the midst of the fight.

The superstitious in America regarded Wilson's PARALYSIS as a visitation by Providence. The reaction against Wilson's policy grew throughout the autumn and nothing could stem it. On November 19th the SENATE REFUSED TO REVIEW THE PEACE TREATY. The Democratic Party was driven out of office, and in the election the Republican Harding was elected President of

the United States with a majority of over seven million votes

AMERICA REFUSED TO ENTER THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, although it had initiated the idea of the League and forced it upon Europe

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

The seventy-three Sinn Fein members, elected in the General Election of December, 1918, refused to take their seats at Westminster and met in Dublin instead. They set up an Irish parliament, called the Dail Eireann, and Eamon de Valera was elected President of an Irish Republic. This was in January, 1919.

During the year upwards of three million soldiers and sailors in Britain were demobilised. It was the year of the poster DON'T PITY A MAN FIND HIM A JOB! At the other end of the social scale the GEDDES' AXE came into operation, removing from their posts those who had "done well out of the War" or cutting down their salaries.



# THE YEAR OF THE FIRST POLISH WAR WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

THE YEAR 1920



## CHIEF EVENTS

Polish War with Russia

The Kapp Putsch in Germany

Formation of the Little Entente to resist territorial  
revision of the peace treaties.

Hitler adopted the Swastika.



## *GERMANY*

**I**N January a LIST OF WAR CRIMINALS was sent to Germany with a demand for their surrender for trial. The list contained some thousand names, including those of many distinguished generals.

In January also the SURRENDER OF THE KAISER was demanded from the Dutch government. The Dutch refused this, but gave a guarantee that the Kaiser should not be allowed to depart from Holland to any other country.

On March 13th took place the KAPP *Putsch*. Wolfgang Kapp and General von Lüttwitz, at the head of several thousand Monarchist partisans, made an attack upon Berlin, which they held for five days. The Ebert Government fled to Dresden. But the population of Berlin gave little support, and as a result of a general strike Kapp was obliged to withdraw.

The German Communists became very active and seized many towns and mines in the Ruhr Valley. Troops were sent to suppress them, but the French objected, and as a counter-measure occupied the cities of Frankfurt and Darmstadt. When the Reichswehr had cleaned up the Ruhr, the French withdrew.

In December, Adolf Hitler founded the *Volkischer Beobachter* (Folk Observer), which he made into a powerful organ of propaganda. This year the SWASTIKA was ADOPTED. The first Swastika flag appeared in June.

### POLAND

On April 25th Poland started a war of aggression upon Soviet Russia with a view to annexing territory in the Ukraine and White Russia. The Polish army made a rapid advance and on May 6th took Kief. By June 18th they had occupied half the Russian Ukraine. Then the main Russian army, led by the brilliant young commander, Tukhachevsky, came into action and inflicted a series of defeats on the Poles, who fled precipitately. Tukhachevsky and the Bolsheviks advanced as far as the outskirts of Warsaw in July, and the Polish Government in desperate fright appealed to the French Government for aid. France speedily dispatched a staff of officers to reorganise the Polish army.

On August 15th the Bolsheviks were routed at the BATTLE of WARSAW, for which Piłsudski took the credit.

The Poles were then successful in driving the Bolsheviks out of their national territory. An armistice was arranged on October 12th.

Polish desire for extra territory found expression in the ANNEXATION of Vilna, which v.

taken from Lithuania, causing a lasting enmity between the states of Lithuania and Poland

### *RUSSIA*

The Czechs, in league with Social Revolutionaries, placed Admiral Kolchak under arrest. They purchased their safety by handing the dictator over to the Reds "Better that one man should perish than we should face annihilation" KOLCHAK WAS BUTCHERED by the Red soldiery. His army surrendered on January 8th.

Denikin, with French and British support, was driven to the sea. In the far north Murmansk was taken from the British. Then there was the war with Poland. After the Polish war, the Bolsheviks turned upon the last hope of the Whites, General Wrangel, in the Crimea, and routed him. On November 15th they took Sebastopol. Wrangel fled to Constantinople.

In December there was peace on all fronts, but famine and economic chaos. In December 25th Lenin pronounced in favour of ELECTRIFICATION as the one remedy for Russia's economic ills.

### *PALESTINE*

At San Remo, in April, it was decided that Great Britain should receive a mandate for Palestine, and at the same time France a mandate for Syria.

Sir Herbert Samuel was sent to Palestine to prospect for his people and organise the administration and government of a Jewish state.

*GREECE*

Greece went Monarchist and defecated Venizelos. VENIZELOS FLED FROM GREECE.

*TURKEY*

Constantinople was occupied by the British, French and Italians.

Kemal Pasha set up a Rebel Government at Angora. A TURKISH REPUBLIC was PROCLAIMED and Kemal was elected President on April 23rd.

*GREAT BRITAIN*

The political quarrel with Ireland overshadowed all other interests during the year. The most sensational event was the HUNGRY STRIKE of ALDERMAN McSWINEY who had been arrested for being in possession of seditious documents. He refused food for seventy-four days and died in prison.

On March 20th Alderman MacCurtain, the Lord Mayor of Cork, was murdered. There were murders, riots, incendiaryism, reprisals throughout the year. On November 22nd the Crown Forces fired on a football crowd in Dublin, killing twelve. On November 26th Arthur Griffith, President of Sinn Fein, was arrested. In December Martial Law was proclaimed in ten Irish counties.

# THE YEAR OF THE CREATION OF THE IRISH FREE STATE

THE YEAR 1921



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

SOUTHERN IRELAND BECAME THE IRISH FREE STATE,  
and received Dominion status

LENIN INAUGURATED THE N E P in Russia

The Great Famine in Russia

Death of King Peter of Serbia

Emergence in Italy of a political party called Fascisti



## *RUSSIA*

**T**HIS was a year of Trade Agreements with Capitalist states. Britain granted to Soviet Russia *de facto* recognition, and signed a Trade Agreement on March 16th. On May 6th Germany entered into trade relationship with the Soviet. Agreements were also signed with Austria, Norway and Poland. On January 1st the Soviet recognised the INDEPENDENCE OF FINLAND, and concluded a NON-AGGRESSION PACT.

In June news came of appalling famine conditions throughout Russia, but chiefly in the Volga basin. Subscriptions were opened in Britain and America for famine relief. The Soviet Government confiscated the wealth of the Orthodox Church, ostensibly to provide funds to feed the starving. Many missions set out from Britain and America to succour the famine-stricken.

Militant Communism was held to have failed temporarily, and to save the revolution Lenin decided to revert to petty Capitalism and allowed all the shops to re-open. This was called the NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (N.E.P.) and was adopted by the Soviet on August 11th.

There had been several revolts of the peasant

and working-class population, as conditions of life had become unbearable. The chief of these was the KRONSTADT RISING, which was put down by Stalin and others with great ferocity.

Zinovief strongly opposed the introduction of N.E.P., which was interpreted abroad as a capitulation of Marxism.

### ITALY

Mussolini had not yet come into the news, but in March, 1919, he had organised a political following of ex-service men with the name *Fasci di Combattimento*. Its programme included the proletarian control of industry, but it was opposed to both Communism and Socialism. It was imperialist in spirit, and demanded the annexation of Dalmatia.

By 1921 the Fascist movement had made great progress. *The Times* noted the rise of a "self-constituted police called Fascisti," and a marked decline in the number of overt Communists in Italy.

In November the National Fascist Party was formed with a radically changed programme. It renounced the proletarian cause and championed business interests. Converts began to be made by force, and the armed Fascist bands became a law unto themselves.

### *HUNGARY*

With Admiral Horthy as Regent and Count Bethlen as Premier, Hungary developed a system of government by decree and endeavoured to crush on the one hand the Communists and on the other the Legitimists. After abortive attempts to regain the throne, Charles of Habsburg was exiled and renounced his claim. On November 10th Hungary signed the TREATY OF TRIANON in which she agreed not to choose a King without the assent of the Allied powers. By the terms of the Treaty of Trianon, Hungary lost extensive territory. The chief beneficiary was Rumania. As a result REVISIONISM became an important article of creed in Budapest.

### *AUSTRIA*

Received a gift from the League of Nations of ten million pounds and a loan of thirty five million was guaranteed.

### *GERMANY*

On April 27th Reparations were assessed at 132,000,000,000 gold marks, about 6,500,000,000 pounds sterling. The Allied Governments presented a schedule of payments to the German Government. In case of repudiation a threat of occupation of the Ruhr valley was made. Rather

than have such an occupation the Germans agreed to begin payments.

The German Government allowed the mark to depreciate in order to demonstrate that it would be unable to continue paying Reparations. On July 21st the mark was at 279 to the pound. In September it had fallen to 400, and by November it was only worth half a farthing in English money. *The Times* observed that "the German Government appeared to be deliberately steering for bankruptcy."

Hitler's henchmen, defending themselves against Reds at a mass meeting in Munich (November 21st), took the name of STORM-TROOPERS.

Rudolf Hess joined the Storm-Troopers in May.

### GREAT BRITAIN

The SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES Act was passed, providing a tariff of 33½ per cent on key industries and on goods coming from countries with depreciated currencies. Thus in effect Britain ABANDONED FREE TRADE.

The chief political interest continued to be that of the conflict in Ireland. Mr. Lloyd George resolved upon conciliation and invited the Sinn Fein leaders to conference at Downing Street. On December 6th a treaty was signed granting

qualified independence to the IRISH FREE STATE, with DOMINION STATUS

Mr de Valera signified his refusal to take oath of allegiance to the King

### *UNITED STATES*

America placed a limit on the number of immigrants she would receive. She thus stopped the flow of redundant populations from Europe. The IMMIGRATION ACT of 1921 was, however, liberal compared with the more stringent measure which followed in 1924.

### *DEATHS IN 1921*

King Peter of Serbia, and Nicholas, ex-King of Montenegro, both died. In Germany the Catholic leader Erzberger was assassinated. In Moscow the Anarchist leader Prince Peter Kropotkin died. Bethman Hollweg also died.



# THE YEAR OF MUSSOLINI'S MARCH ON ROME, AND THE BEGINNING OF FASCISM

THE YEAR 1922



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

America persuaded Britain to renounce the Anglo-Japanese Alliance

The Nine Power Pact, guaranteeing China, was signed

THE BALFOUR NOTE ON WAR DEBTS was published

The Genoa Conference.

THE MARCH ON ROME THE FASCISTS RULED IN ITALY

The great Johannesburg Strike took place.

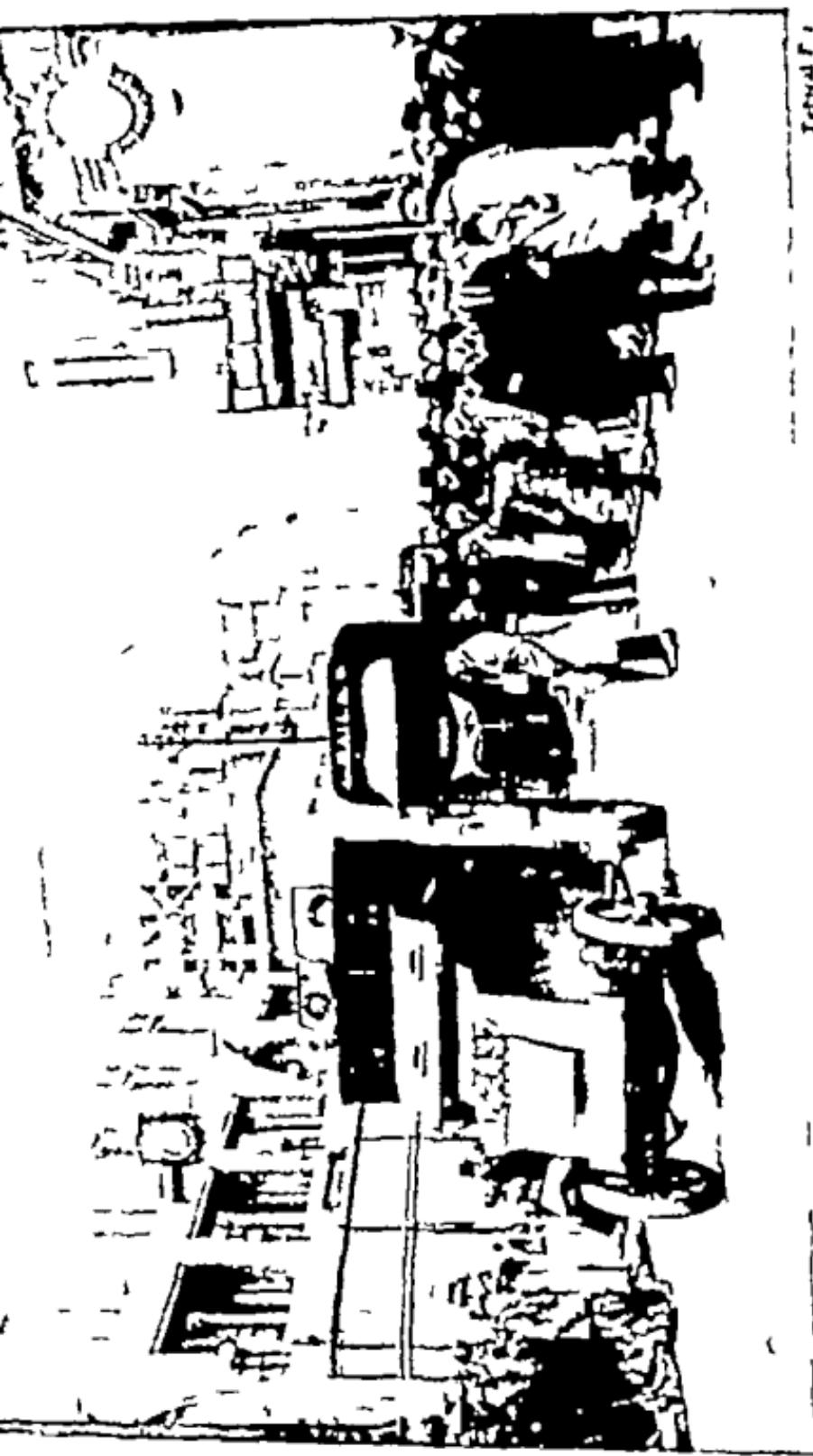
LLOYD GEORGE FELL FROM POWER.



Trunk

## THE GENERAL STRIKE (1926)

Armoured car escorting food wagons through Oxford Circus





## THE UNITED STATES

A MERICA had started the political racket of DISARMAMENT by calling the Washington Conference at the close of 1921. Britain made her first plea for the abolition of the submarine. Britain and America agreed to parity of naval armament. Agreement of delegates was reached, but the naval treaty was not ratified either by France or Italy.

America, Britain, France and Japan signed an agreement to settle by conference all disputes which might arise in the Far East. In addition to this nine powers agreed to guarantee the integrity of China. The FOUR POWER PACT and the NINE POWER PACT. In exchange for these guarantees Great Britain allowed the ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE to lapse. In exchange for Japanese assistance in the Pacific, Britain assumed an active co-operation of British and American interests, a change of orientation which altered the prospects of security for the British Empire.

But under the Harding administration American detachment from the interests of European powers became greater and the prospect of America entering the League of Nations became more remote. America was the great creditor nation.

and awaited the repayment of loans amounting to over £2,500,000,000. The British debt was more than £1,000,000,000.

On August 1st the BALFOUR NOTE was published, laying down the principle that Great Britain would collect from her allies only the amount necessary to pay the American debt. In effect the Balfour Note made the payment of all inter-allied debts dependent upon the payment of Reparations by Germany.

In December the Secretary of State Hughes announced a proposal to send experts to assess Germany's capacity to pay. On December 27th Stanley Baldwin set off for Washington to discuss the funding of the British Debt.

### GERMANY

Ways and means to make Germany pay were discussed at the abortive Cannes Conference on January 6th. Lloyd George tried to teach Briand to play golf. Cannes led the way to the more spectacular GENOA CONFERENCE on April 10th. This conference was hailed in the Press as a plan to make a "Europe Ltd." with the nation as shareholders. The only fruit of the conference was the conclusion of the Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Russia.

Social turbulence continued in Germany, and on June 24th the Anti-Semites drew blood by the assassination of Walter Rathenau, partly as

answer to his having signed a treaty with the Soviets.

Göring came to live in Munich and fell under influence of Hitler. In December he was appointed LEADER OF THE STORM-TROOPERS

### *ITALY*

A year of political crises Signor Bonomi resigned the premiership on February 2nd, resumed office, resigned again Signor Facta became Prime Minister and struggled on till September, when he came to a final clash with Benito Mussolini and the Fascists. About 50,000 Fascists MARCHED ON ROME and intimidated the Chamber of Deputies. Facta resigned, and on October 29th the KING INVITED MUSSOLINI TO BECOME PREMIER and to form a cabinet. The Socialists were eliminated from government.

### *TURKEY*

The rise of Kemal Pasha continued. He drove the Greek troops out of Asia Minor and out of Thrace, and Greece lost her war acquisitions.

The authority of the Sultan, Mohammed VI, petered out in view of the strength and popularity of the Kemalist Government. He was obliged to take refuge on a British warship and flee to Malta. On November 2nd the Grand National Assembly at Angora DEPOSED the SULTAN.

*EGYPT*

On March 15th, Egypt became NOMINALLY AN INDEPENDENT STATE, though in fact still a British protectorate. FUAD became FIRST KING OF EGYPT.

*IRELAND*

Although Southern Ireland had become the Free State and English troops had been withdrawn there was no peace in Ireland. Murders, ambushes, kidnappings continued. The chief source of trouble was the I.R.A. fighting to make Ireland an independent republic.

Sir Henry Wilson was assassinated on June 22nd. In August Michael Collins was murdered. Valera endeavouring to compromise with the I.R.A. was unable to take the unique leadership of the country, and on September 9th Mr. Cosgrave was elected President.

The two Irish acts establishing the Free State and its Constitution received royal assent on December 5th, and Mr. T. M. Healy became Governor-General.

*GREAT BRITAIN*

Mr. Lloyd George, who had dominated European politics since the Armistice, was

unexpectedly eliminated from the Government of the country Lloyd George was forced to resign the premiership, and, as we know, was never able to recover his high position In January he wished to have a general election, but was thwarted by the Conservative Party chief, Sir George Younger In June there was a political storm over the traffic in honours, and the accusation that the Prime Minister was building up a fund for electoral purposes Clashes with the Conservative forces were frequent, and in November Mr Lloyd George resigned, and the King sent for Mr Bonar Law

The spectacular Wizard of Wales gave way to a dull and colourless personality Bonar Law went to the country in December with the watch-word of "Tranquillity"

The General Election of December was the first in which WOMEN HAD VOTES

The chief surprise in the election results was the RISE OF LABOUR The Socialists won 142 seats, and Mr Ramsay MacDonald became Leader of the Opposition

In this year the Princess Mary was married The Prince of Wales concluded his tour of India Mr Gandhi, arrested and sentenced to six years' imprisonment, organised "civil disobedience." Canada had a record harvest, and South Africa suffered the great armed strike of the Rand workers



# THE YEAR OF THE OCCUPATION OF THE RUHR, AND GREAT GERMAN INFLATION

THE YEAR 1923



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

THE OCCUPATION OF THE RUHR

THE GERMAN INFLATION

Italian Occupation of Corfu

FUNDING OF THE BRITISH DEBT TO AMERICA

Death of President Harding and the Accession of  
Coolidge.

The Yokohama Earthquake.

Primo de Rivera became military Dictator of Spain.

Death of Bonar Law, Mr Stanley Baldwin Prime  
Minister



### *UNITED STATES*

**M**R BALDWIN and Mr Montague Norman arrived at Washington to discuss the debt. America reduced the rate of interest from 5 per cent to 3 per cent. Great Britain agreed to pay 33 million pounds in gold annually for ten years, and after that 98 million pounds in gold annually for fifty-two years.

On January 10th America ordered the withdrawal of her troops from the Rhine.

President Harding died, and the Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, entered the White House as chief executive.

### *GERMANY*

Germany having been declared "in default," Poincaré ordered the French troops into the Ruhr Valley.

The German Government allowed the reichsmark to fall catastrophically so that it became in fact worthless. Its ultimate exchange value was about one billionth part of a farthing.

Because of this inflation the savings of the middle and poor classes in Germany were wiped

out. The richer bourgeois class, and especially the banking community, saved its fortune by a timely purchase of foreign currency or of real estate. The German Government profited because it was freed from the burden of internal and domestic loans which could all be discharged by printing sufficient paper money.

Dr. Luther wound up the history of the reichsmark by issuing a new currency, backed by holdings of foreign money and gold, the rentenmark. It also had the hypothetical backing of the agricultural and industrial wealth of the country. The issue of the rentenmark was the beginning of the GERMAN WAR ON GOLD and upon the normal system of trading.

### ITALY

Fascist Italy first showed the inherent weakness of the League of Nations by disregarding its authority in a matter in which it claimed the national honour was at stake. On August 27th General Tellini and his staff, sent to fix the frontier of Albania, were murdered by Greeks. Mussolini held the Greek Government to be responsible, and sent the Italian fleet to bombard Corfu.

The League reprimanded Italy, but to save its face was obliged to range itself on Italy's side, exacting apologies and an indemnity of 500,000 pounds.

In September Fiume was officially annexed

*SPAIN*

Spain followed the example of Italy by becoming quasi-Fascist Primo de Rivera established a military dictatorship which King Alfonso was powerless to override Primo de Rivera began the sweeping reform of modern Spain which was to lead through revolution and civil war to complete Fascism

*GREAT BRITAIN*

The ill health and subsequent death of Mr Bonar Law caused a reversion of the premiership to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Stanley Baldwin Mr Baldwin, uneasy at having merely inherited Bonar Law's majority, soon decided to seek anew a verdict from the electorate Mr Neville Chamberlain was his Chancellor of the Exchequer

In November Parliament was dissolved, and at the General Election on December 6th the Conservatives asked for a mandate to introduce a complete tariff system, as being the only remedy for unemployment. As a result the Conservative Party lost eighty-seven seats The Labour representation was greatly increased and the Government could have no majority if the Labour and Liberal oppositions voted against it *The Times* predicted that before the end of



THE YEAR OF THE GENERAL STRIKE  
IN BRITAIN  
THE YEAR 1926



CHIEF EVENTS

GERMANY ENTERED THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

GENERAL STRIKE IN BRITAIN

Financial Crisis in France, owing to fall of franc  
to 235

Herriot resigned, and Poincaré rescued the franc

Death of Pashitch

IN POLAND, Piłsudski became DICTATOR



## *GREAT BRITAIN*

APRIL 30th, the great Coal Strike.

**A** May 3rd, at midnight, began the GENERAL STRIKE, partly financed from Moscow

May 12th, the General Strike was liquidated but the Coal Strike continued until the end of November

Lord Oxford and the Asquithian Liberals had supported the Government during the General Strike, but Mr Lloyd George had taken an independent line. Lord Oxford issued a public criticism of Mr Lloyd George. But the Liberal Party accepted assistance from Lloyd George's political fund. Lord Oxford's health failed and he resigned the leadership of the Liberal Party.

An Imperial Conference took place in London (October 19th-November 23rd).

On June 15th the Soviet Government admitted that it had financed the General Strike with a grant of two million roubles.

## *FRANCE*

The French treasury was practically empty and there were repeated political crises throughout

the first half of the year. Briand formed new governments in March, June and July, but failed to obtain strong powers to deal with the financial situation. Herriot formed a ministry in July but also failed. The FRANC FELL TO 235, and while France became very cheap for tourists, it became very dear for the French.

On July 23rd M. Poincaré assumed office and obtained permission to govern by decree for six months. By December he raised the franc to 122 and stabilised it there, despite its continued upward tendency. As a result FRANCE BEGAN TO PILE UP A GOLD RESERVE.

## ITALY

Death of Queen Margherita (January).

The Socialist opposition members made their last appearance in parliament during the mourning for the Queen Mother. Mussolini warned them not to do so again, until they had accepted Fascism. The 123 opposition members were deprived of their seats in parliament.

established over Albania by the Italo-Albanian Treaty

In this year Mussolini became commander-in-chief of the army, the navy, the police and the air forces. He had ceased to be responsible to parliament. For that reason he called 1926 the "Napoleonic Year of Fascism."

### *GERMANY*

Socialists and Communists endeavoured to obtain legislation to confiscate all the property of the Hohenzollerns and of the ex-royal families. Hindenburg condemned the proposal. A referendum was taken in June and the proposal failed, showing the strength of Monarchist and anti-Republican sentiment in Germany.

This year Germany ENTERED the LEAGUE OF NATIONS. Spain and Brazil seceded.

Adolf Hitler discovered an ardent supporter in Dr Goebbels, who had just deserted the leadership of Strasser. Goebbels founded *Der Angriff* (The Attack), which became an extremely vigorous newspaper and propaganda sheet.

### *POLAND*

A quasi-FASCIST REGIME was set up in POLAND, when on May 12th Pilsudski with an armed force seized Warsaw. There was heavy street-

fighting with many casualties. Pilsudski's legionaries won. The President was deposed and the existing government driven out.

Pilsudski refused the Presidency which went to M. Mosiecki. The Constitution was amended on July 22nd. In October Pilsudski became Prime Minister and there was to all intents and purposes a DICTATORSHIP.

### *HUNGARY*

This year it was discovered that HUNGARY WAS ENGAGED IN A LARGE-SCALE FORGERY OF FRENCH BANK-NOTES, that the Chief of the Police Department and several high officials were implicated. The object of this forgery was to create a large fund wherewith to finance the Monarchist movement.

### *KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES*

The aged Prime Minister, Pashitch, died and was succeeded by Uzuncvitch.

*CHINA*

Emergence of Chuang Kai-shek, Commander-in-Chief of the Canton forces, as a dominant personality in the revolutionary struggle. With the support of the U.S.S.R. he organised soviets throughout Cantonese territory, and embarked upon violent anti British propaganda.



# THE YEAR OF THE RISE OF CHIANG KAI-SHEK

THE YEAR 1927



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

Arcos Premises in London raided      DIPLOMATIC  
RELATIONSHIP with the U.S.S.R. broken off  
Chiang Kai-shek conquered Northern China.  
Litvinof propounded COMPLETE DISARMAMENT  
Lindbergh flew the Atlantic.



## *UNITED STATES*

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE had raised the DISARMAMENT question in 1926 and on February 27th invited the Powers to discuss it again. A DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE opened at Geneva on June 20th, but broke up on August 4th a COMPLETE FAILURE.

Germany notified the League Council of her virtual complete Disarmament on July 22nd. There was then no need for German delegates to attend a Disarmament Conference.

After the failure of the Geneva Conference, President Coolidge announced a BIG NAVY programme involving expenditure of £200,000,000.

This year saw the inauguration of a wireless TELEPHONE SERVICE between America and England (January 7th).

On May 21st, Lindbergh flew the Atlantic.

## *CHINA*

Chiang Kai shek, the Cantonese commander, conquered Northern China and made NANKING the CAPITAL on April 28th.

He fell foul of his Soviet supporter and began

expelling all Communists from Chinese national territory.

In June he captured Pekin.

On March 11th the premises of the Soviet Trade Delegation in Kharbin were raided by Chinese police. The Far-Eastern Bank was raided by Shanghai police in July. The CHINESE GOVERNMENT at NANKING broke off relationship with U.S.S.R. and EXPELLED SOVIET CONSULS on December 15th. On December 20th the Canton Government announced the execution of eight Soviet citizens including the Vice-Consul.

By the end of the year most European states had recognised the Nationalist Republic of Chiang Kai-shek.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

On May 12th the Arcos premises in London were raided by police in search of a certain document. On May 28th diplomatic relations between Britain and the U.S.S.R. were broken off.

In this year, Vorovsky in Switzerland and Volkof in Poland were assassinated.

On November 12th Trotsky and Zinoviet and ninety-eight others were expelled from the Communist Party. On November 17th Job committed suicide.

Twenty persons were known to have been shot in Soviet prisons as British spies. The British Labour leaders protested on June 22nd. Rikof replied to them on June 28th that "Reprisals were justified."

The French required the withdrawal of Soviet ambassador on October 16th.

Stalin inaugurated the FIRST FIVE YEAR PLAN (1928-33)

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

TRADES DISPUTE ACT passed, making General Strikes illegal and forbidding the use of Trade Union funds for financing strike warfare

Commission of Enquiry into working of responsible government in India set up under chairmanship of Sir John Simon

The British Trade Unions severed connection with the Bolshevik unions

Break with Soviet Russia after discovery of espionage activity

Duke of York (afterwards George VI) opened the new Parliament House in Canberra, the seat of government of the Australian Commonwealth

An army of 20,000 men had to be sent to Shanghai to protect the 9,300 British subjects there resident. It was said to be impossible to evacuate our nationals.

*GERMANY*

Wilhelm Marx formed a cabinet which was dependent upon the Nationalists who now accepted the Republic and its flag. The Reichswehr were not allowed to fly the imperial flag of Germany without the republican flag flying also.

The Allied Control of German Disarmament came to an end on January 31st. Regular forces appeared to have been reduced to the requirement of the Versailles Treaty. The recruiting of irregular forces however went on apace.

Adolf Hitler organised a great "Party Day" for his National Socialists, August 20th at Nuremberg. Delegates came from all parts of the Reich.

In November the Graf Zeppelin flew to America in seventy-one hours.

*RUMANIA*

On July 20th King Ferdinand died. In his testament he asked Prince Carol to honour his previous renunciation of the throne. Michael, aged six, became King under a Regency. Bratianu became virtual dictator of Rumania.

THE YEAR OF THE KELLOGG PEACE PACT  
THE YEAR 1928



*CHIEF EVENTS*

THE KELLOGG PACT

Boom of Stock Exchange gambling in the United States.

Trotsky banished to Russian Central Asia.

Murder of Stepan Raditch in the Parliament House, Belgrade.

HERBERT HOOVER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A.



## *UNITED STATES*

THE year opened with the proposal of M Briand that America and France bind themselves in a Pact renouncing war. On January 5th the Secretary of State, Mr Kellogg, extended this proposal of "perpetual friendship" to a plan for a multilateral treaty renouncing war altogether and forever. A draft treaty was submitted on April 14th. On July 20th Sir Austen Chamberlain, on behalf of the British Government, signified that the British Empire as a whole would be willing to sign this treaty of universal peace. On August 15th the KELLOGG PACT was signed by fifteen nations and over fifty nations signified their intention of signing. Eventually almost every state in the world signed the Kellogg Pact and renounced war as a means of settling disputes.

It was a year of unbridled optimism in the United States, and stock exchange gambling on the future prosperity of America became a marked feature of public life. The MANIA of wanting to GET RICH QUICKLY spread to every class and age. Even school children were buying stocks and shares. Prices were boosted up to a level far beyond the earning capacity of the companies.

Coolidge did not seek re-election for the Presidency. The new Republican candidate, Herbert Hoover, swept the country. Never before had the Democrats suffered such a heavy defeat, losing forty out of the forty-eight states. **HOOVER WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT ON NOVEMBER 8TH.**

### *ABYSSINIA*

Signed a TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ITALY in August.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

This was the first year of the FIVE YEAR PLAN. Pressure began to be exerted upon the peasants to start collective farms.

The political purge continued and Trotsky was banished to Central Asia, under police supervision (January 16th).

This year marked the RETURN TO MILITARY COMMUNISM. Private trading markedly diminished, and Lenin's New Economic Policy may be considered to have been abrogated.

On May 18th began the first of the great SABOTAGE TRIALS. This was the trial of fifty-three Russian engineers and Germans employed on the Donets Coalfields. There was a protest from the German Government.

## *KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES*

A state of "democratic anarchy" prevailed in Belgrade, obstruction in the Parliament and newspapers calling for assassinations. On June 20th a Montenegrin deputy opened fire upon the Croat opposition in the Parliament House, killing two of them and wounding two others. The Croat Leader, Stepan Raditch, was mortally wounded. The murder of Raditch had far-reaching repercussions on the development of this new state. The Radical Government fell and the King invited the Slovene clerical Dr Koroshetz to form a cabinet. But the days of democratic government were numbered.

## *PALESTINE*

Palestine received its own currency

On July 10th plans for the construction of a new port at Haifa were announced, also the decision to construct a pipe line from the Mosul oil wells.

The religious Jews found difficulty in enforcing Sabbath observance and Mosaic Law in the new municipality of Tel Aviv. The influx of non-observing American Jews was making itself felt. The local government decided that the police could not intervene to enforce religious law and custom.

*JAPAN*

Japan, still imitating the institutions of the Western world, had been moving toward democratic rule. On February 23rd of this year, the first elections under manhood suffrage took place. The *SEIYUKAI*, or party of tradition, gained a slight majority.

Despite the democratic development, the army and navy remained outside civil control. The *Seiyukai*, aided by the army chiefs, began to consolidate its position by extirpating the Communist Party.

The Russian Monarchists in exile in Japan began to exercise some influence upon Japanese politics, giving the new democratic system a bias towards anti-Communism, Fascism and authoritarian rule. (This bore fruit later when Japan joined the Anti-Comintern Pact.)

*TURKEY*

Kemal Pasha DISESTABLISHED THE MORAL RELIGION on April 10th.

Turkish script was abolished and Latin characters substituted. Kemal, with blackboard and chalk, started teaching his subjects their letters.

The fez was abolished and men had to assume other shapes of head-gear. Women had to abandon the veil.

*EGIPT*

King Fuad suspended the Constitution and became Dictator, advised by his cabinet and the British Government

*GREAT BRITAIN*

Protracted illness of King George V

On December 5th DR. LANG became ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The Kellogg Pact renouncing war was thought to herald a new era of peace and good will among all nations



# THE YEAR OF THE WALL STREET CRASH

## THE YEAR 1929

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### *CHIEF EVENTS*

- The GREAT WALL STREET STOCK EXCHANGE CRASH
- Dictatorship in Jugoslavia
- "SOCIALISM IN OUR TIME" Election in Britain, and  
the second LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE.
- Recommendation of the YOUNG PLAN for complete  
settlement of German Reparations.



## *UNITED STATES*

**S**TOCK Exchange gambling continued This was largely gambling on credit By the end of September outstanding brokers' loans had reached the stupendous sum of \$8,500,000,000 The interest charged on call loans had risen to 20 per cent. The banks and business houses were greatly involved in financing the Wall Street boom.

On October 4th the bubble burst Prices rushed downward as 12½ million shares changed hands Panic ensued Hundreds of thousands of people were financially ruined and hundreds of banking concerns were faced with insolvency The great run on the banks began

In the month of October prosperity in the United States was exchanged for financial and economic chaos The significance of the crash was not at first fully understood abroad It was considered likely to be merely a temporary setback That prices would find a rock bottom, a just economic equation, was the current belief, and a swing upward in the following year was anticipated

But the Wall Street crash proved to be one of the greatest events in post war history, and

The Nationalists opposed the adoption of the Young Plan and demanded a Referendum. But they lost in the Referendum, only obtaining 14 per cent of the votes.

DR GOEBBELS became REICH PROPAGANDA LEADER for Hitler. He was now a member of the Reichstag, having been elected in 1928.

The National Socialist Movement more than doubled its membership in the course of the year. The figures of dues paying members are as follows:

1925	27,000
1926	49,000
1927	72,000
1928	108,000
1929	178,000

and partly as a result of Dr Goebbels' propaganda, the number reached 389,000 by the following year.

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

Parliament was dissolved in June. At the General Election, in which for the first time women of twenty-one years had votes, the Conservatives were defeated. The election was fought with the slogan SOCIALISM IN OUR TIME, and the Socialists obtained a majority of 30 over the Conservatives. Mr Ramsay MacDonald took office for the second time. Mr Baldwin's slogan had been PLAY UP, YOU FELLOWS, PLAY

UP. He had gone to the electors with a studied absence of sensational electioneering methods.

The antagonism of Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Winston Churchill, ex-Chancellor, commenced.

Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, had a narrow escape from assassination on December 23rd, a bomb had been placed under his train.

Lord Lloyd resigned in Egypt. The new Labour Government drew up a liberal treaty with Egypt and evacuated British troops, except from the Suez Canal region. There was to be condominium over the Sudan.

The Hague Conference on Reparations opened on August 7th. Mr. Snowden demanded from Germany, France and Italy sufficient shares to pay the instalments on the American Debt.

### *FRANCE*

Poincaré retired. His place was taken by Briand, who was having marked success with the POLICY OF APPEASEMENT. But he found it difficult to cope with a turbulent Chamber of Deputies. TARDIEU became PRIMIER

### *AUSTRALIA*

toward *anschluss* with Germany. A feature of the time was the street conflict of Communists and Heimwehr (Austrian Fascists), both of which factions were armed. Eventually the Chief of Police, Schober, became Chancellor and made a temporary peace.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

The massed EVICTION, from their holdings and cottages, OF THE RICHER PEASANTS began. The Government supported the poorer peasants against the richer, who were named, in derision, KULAKS. There was class war in the villages.

The Soviets commenced the motorisation of agriculture, and successfully introduced the tractor on a large scale. Numbers of state farms on virgin soil were started. Peasant lands were expropriated to form COLLECTIVES. The experiment is sometimes referred to as the Third Revolution. It was probably the most important happening in Russia since 1917.

The G P U (department of political police) now appeared as an employer of labour, using the large number of prisoners under its control, and also the redundant peasants evacuated from the rural areas.

There was considerable disaffection. Tomsky, Lunacharsky and Bukharin disapproved of the eviction of the peasants and were forced to resign.

their positions in the cabinet (politbureau). Rikof, though in Lenin's position and nominally President of the Soviet Union, had to apologise for criticising Stalin's agricultural policy.

Trotsky was found to be keeping up an extensive correspondence from Central Asia, and a police court escort was sent to remove him entirely from the territory of the U.S.S.R. In exile he found his first refuge in Turkey, on the island of Prinkipe (February 12th).

The U.S.S.R. signed the Kellogg Pact.

Great Britain resumed trade and diplomatic relationship with the U.S.S.R., but there was no move on the part of the new Labour Government in England to revive the project of an Anglo-Soviet treaty, or to guarantee a loan to Moscow.

# THE YEAR OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION

THE YEAR 1930



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

THE INDIAN ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE OPENED IN  
LONDON

The Young Plan ratified and applied.

SENSATIONAL NAZI VICTORIES IN THE GERMAN  
ELECTIONS.

Death of Primo de Rivera.

LONG LINE OF FAILURES OF AMERICAN BANKS.

WORLD ECONOMIC DEPRESSION SET IN

Carol became King of Rumania.

The destruction of the British Airship R 101

Sir Oswald Mosley resigned from Labour Cabinet.



GENERAL VITALYK



GENERAL CHIANG KAI-SHEK





## GERMANI

**O**N June 30th the last foreign troops departed from the occupied Rhineland. It was a year of clash between the irregular armed forces of the Communists and the Nazis. The Nazis lost 17 killed and 2,506 wounded.

On January 14th, the young student HORST WESSEL was MURDERED in his room in Berlin. He had written a marching song for the Nazi Party and was an enthusiastic storm troop leader. Four Communists broke into his room and shot him. The Horst Wessel Song became the hymn of the Nazi Party and Wessel one of the martyrs of the cause.

The last Socialist Chancellor of the Republic, Herman Muller, resigned on March 20th. Hindenburg requested the Centre Party leader, Brüning, to form a cabinet. The Socialists were wholly in opposition. Nationalist support from Hugenberg was half-hearted and on July 18th the Government was defeated in the Reichstag. Hindenburg decreed dissolution on September 14th.

In the September General Election, Hitler embarked on a campaign which could only be

compared with that of Theodore Roosevelt boosting himself for the presidency of the United States. He was the hero of an extremely violent electoral struggle. His success amazed everyone. **THE NAZI PARTY WON 107 SEATS.**

In this election the COMMUNISTS WON 77 SEATS, and polled four and a half million votes. But the Social Democrats with 143 seats appeared to be still the strongest party.

On September 25th, Hitler was subpoenaed as a witness in a trial of Nazis and made a memorable utterance :

“ If our movement succeeds, we shall elect a people’s tribunal before which the criminals of 1918 shall expiate their crime, and I frankly predict you shall then SEE THEIR HEAD, ROLLING IN THE SAND.”

On October 13th, when the Reichstag convened, the 107 Nazi deputies marched into the chamber in military style, wearing their brown shirts and swastika armlets and shouting “ Heil Hitler ! ” and “ Heads will Roll ! ”

## SPAIN

Primo de Rivera resigned on January 23rd. He died on March 16th. The new dictator was General Bérenguer. The long-repressed Communist ferment changed to eruption thus when Bérenguer’s position did not seem tenable. La

December took place the first revolutionary attempt to seize power and force the abdication of King Alfonso

### *RUMANIA*

Carol returned from exile to Bucharest by aeroplane Within forty-eight hours of his arrival he was proclaimed King (June 6th)

### *BULGARIA*

King Boris married the Italian princess, Joanna

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

MASS EVICTION OF KULAKS continued By March 1st, 60,000,000 peasants had been collectivised

In the summer there was an conspiracy to remove Stalin in which Marshal Blucher was implicated Blucher was sent to the Far East and kept there

Litvinof displaced Chicherin at the Bolshevik Foreign Office

In December commenced the second great sabotage trial, commonly called the trial of the industrial party Britain and France were alleged to be implicated in industrial wrecking, spying and favouring movements for counter-revolution

Bolshevik agents abroad were particularly active and managed to kidnap, and it is supposed murder, the head of the Monarchist movement in Paris, General Kutepof.

### *UNITED STATES*

The failure of many banks and financial chaos. Hoover and the Republican Party, being associated in the popular mind with the depression which had set in, lost ground phenomenally. Hoover called a new NAVAL DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE which opened in London on January 6th. A Five Power Naval Treaty was signed on April 22nd. The general impression was that it empowered states to have stronger navies.

The rising tide against Hoover was shown by a victory of Franklin Roosevelt, who was re-elected Governor of New York State by the unprecedented majority of 725,000. It was understood that the Democratic Party would put forward Roosevelt as candidate in the next presidential elections.

*AUSTRALIA*

The external value of the Australian pound began to fall

*INDIA*

On March 12th, Gandhi led the passive war on the Salt Laws

On June 10th, the Simon Report was published

On November 12th, the Round Table Indian Conference opened in London

On December 19th, Lord Willingdon took the place of Lord Irwin as Viceroy

*GREAT BRITAIN*

The Labour Government had to face a bad year. Unemployment mounted rapidly and no practical schemes to combat it were adopted. On this issue SIR OSWALD MOSLEY RESIGNED from the cabinet. (After some political experiments, he founded the British Fascists, the name of which was afterwards changed to the British Union of Fascists and National Socialists.)

It was a year of Conferences, the Naval Disarmament Conference on January 6th, the Imperial Conference of October which adjourned to meet again two years later at Ottawa, the Round Table Conference (India) which began its deliberations on November 12th.

On October 4th occurred the burning of the airship R 101 in which Lord Thomson, Secretary of State for Air, and Sir Sefton Brancker and others perished. As a result of this disaster the British Government decided to relinquish all further practical interest in lighter-than-air machines.

# THE YEAR OF THE FALL OF THE GOLD POUND

THE YEAR 1931



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

**THE FALL OF THE GOLD POUND**

Split in British Labour Party

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN**

Abdication of King Alfonso   SPAIN BECAME A  
REPUBLIC.

Hoover granted a MORATORIUM on all Foreign  
Government Debts.

Failure of the Darmstädter Bank.



## *GREAT BRITAIN*

**T**HIE TIMES thought the year 1931 might come to be known in history as the BLACK YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

Year of slump Year of selling gold and borrowing from France Year of trying to save the pound On July 13th the Darmstädter Bank failed On July 15th 3 million pounds of gold were withdrawn from the Bank of England , the following day 5 million The gold drain by the end of the month amounted to 45 million pounds

On August 1st, New York and Paris combined to place a credit of 50 million pounds Thirty million more were advanced on August 28th A political crash intervened The Prime Minister, MacDonald, went to the King and propounded a scheme for disposing of the Labour Party (August 23rd) The King, acting on MacDonald's advice, invited him to join hands with Conservatives and Liberals and form a NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (August 28th) Snowden and Thomas remained with MacDonald most of the other Socialists went into opposition Credit was not restored Credits were ex-

hausted.. On September 18th the Bank of England lost over eighteen million pounds in gold. On September 21st the bank rate was raised to 6 per cent. The Stock Exchange was closed for two days. Great Britain announced the suspension of the gold standard.

In Paris the pound sterling fell from 12½ to 90 to the franc.

The National Government decided to go to the country, and on October 27th the General Election was held. It was known as the "DOCTOR'S MANDATE ELECTION." The result was :

For the National Government	55½ seats.
Opposition	61 seats.
Number of Conservatives	47½
Official Labour	52

A Conservative said that the WHOLE OPPOSITION COULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN AN OMNIBUS.

The Doctor's Mandate was interpreted to mean the national ABANDONMENT OF FREE TRADE.

### SPAIN

On April 14th KING ALONSO ABDICATED  
SPAIN was PROCLAIMED A REPUBLIC.

Zamora became President of the Republic.

On April 27th Bérenguer was arrested. In May the burning of churches and convents

schools and the confiscation of Church property were pursued by marauding bands of revolutionaries whom Zamora sought to check

Cardinal Segura (Primate) was expelled from Spain

On June 28th, there was the first General Election since 1923 Spain voted for a Republic On December 9th, the republican constitution became operative.

### *GERMANY*

The world depression hit Germany, and in June the Government declared that it would be unable to continue Reparation payments under the Young Plan Brüning and Curtius visited MacDonald at Chequers (guest of an English bourgeois, a country residence at the disposal of Prime Ministers)

On June 20th President Hoover on his own responsibility offered a MORATORIUM for the debts of foreign governments and for the payment of the German Reparation Annuities for one year beginning July 1st It should also apply to deliveries in kind from Germany Germany was to apply the money thus saved to economic recovery

Germany gladly accepted the Moratorium It was the SIGNAL FOR NOTHING MORE TO BE PAID

But it did not stop the financial rot, and on

July 13th the Darmstadter Bank suspended payment. The National Bank also failed.

The Nazis increased in strength throughout the year. They became the largest single party in the Reichstag. They combined for political exigencies with Hugenberg's National Party Brown Shirts with Steel Helmets.

In the spring the wearing of the Brown Shirt had been prohibited, but the troopers paraded in uniform nevertheless, though the shirts were torn from their backs by Communist mobs and they marched naked from the waist up.

The casualties of street warfare were heavier ; 42 Nazis were killed and 6307 were wounded. Anti-Jewish rioting was a feature of the year, and *PERISH JUDAH !* became a party cry of the National Socialists.

The Foreign Minister, Curtius, resigned because he was unable to establish a Customs Union with Austria. Brüning's position became more hazardous. Hitler had become all but master of Germany.

On October 10th, Hindenburg received Hitler and discussed the situation with him. It is thought he merely had to listen to what Hitler had to tell him about the situation.

In December, as if he were already Chamberlain, Hitler sent his emissary Rosenberg to London to treat with Lord Lloyd.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

There began to be a great shortage of bread, owing to the initial failure of Collectivisation. Shortage also of meat because of indiscriminate slaughter of cattle in regions where agriculture was being mechanised.

Molotov took the place of Rikof, as Chairman of the Soviet.

### *JAPAN*

The *Sayukai*, supported by the army chiefs, in control of policy, began to clamour for a military occupation of Manchuria. The Party advocated the application of a Monroe Doctrine to Asia to enable Japan to control the destiny of the continent. In 1931, however, the only symptom of coming trouble in Manchuria was the rioting in the south and the clash with Koreans.

### *UNITED STATES*

Financial chaos continued, and the liquidation of many banks. The number of unemployed was estimated at 10 million. But Hoover was still hopeful of an early return to previous prosperity, an "upswing of the pendulum". He uttered the famous saying PROSPERITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

In June Hoover made himself much more unpopular by promulgating the idea of a

Moratorium for Germany and for foreign debtors. It was understood that he had of his own initiative, paved the way for a GENERAL DEFAULT on the American War Debt. But the popular view was that the United States in her sudden disastrous decline must take every cent due to her from the European nations. Nevertheless, in December, both the Congress and the Senate ratified the Moratorium.

Congress was besieged by Hunger Marchers, a new phenomenon in the social life of the United States.

# THE YEAR OF HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

## THE YEAR 1932

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### CHIEF EVENTS

THE OTTAWA CONFERENCE.

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE  
U.S.A.

Conclusion of First Five Year Plan in U.S.S.R.

Japanese War for Manchuria.

Irish Free State withheld Annuities from Britain

Suicide of Kreuger

BEGINNING OF GENERAL DEFAULT ON AMERICAN WAR  
DEBT.

THE SOVIET POLISH NON AGGRESSION PACT SIGNED



## *UNITED STATES*

**T**HE vast ignorant electorate which had stampeded away from the Democrats after the war now stampeded away from the Republicans. In November the Republican Party suffered an unparalleled defeat. Hoover had to take the blame for the depression.

**ROOSEVELT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT**

The mass assembly of members of the American ex-soldiers demanding a bonus had to be dispersed by the military.

**FRANCE REFUSED TO PAY WAR DEBT** Britain paid her last full instalment in December. A **GENERAL DEFAULT OF WAR DEBTS** to America was signalled.

The Democratic Party decided to have **PROHIBITION REPEALED**.

The suicide of Ivar Kreuger and the revelation of his financial frauds struck yet another blow at the credit of American bankers.

The **Stimson Doctrine** was formulated—The U.S.A. not to recognise territorial changes resultant upon breaking the Kellogg Pact.

*GERMANY*

In April Hindenburg sought re-election for a second term of office as President. He was supported by Brüning and most of those who wished the Weimar Republic to survive. He was eighty-four years of age, but was still an idol of the people. The new idol, Adolf Hitler, opposed him.

At the first election Hindenburg failed to get the necessary majority. At the second election (April 10th) the figures were :

Paul von Hindenburg . . . . .	19,359,983
Adolf Hitler . . . . .	13,418,547
Ernest Thälmann (Communist) . . . . .	3,706,759

Thus Hitler, without the backing of the State apparatus, gained over 13 million votes.

Three days after he was elected, Hindenburg signed a decree dissolving the Storm Troopers. The Brown House in Munich was occupied by the police, but nothing treasonable was discovered there. General SCHLEICHER was supposed to be responsible for this energetic action against Hitler.

Hitler challenged the legality of the suppression of his troopers by action in court. The propaganda of the Nazi Party was intensified in view of the approaching Reichstag General Election.

Schleicher worked upon Hindenburg in his dotage and prevailed on him to get rid of Brüning and elevate von Papen -

On May 30th Brüning with his whole cabinet resigned

On May 31st Franz von Papen was appointed Chancellor Schleicher became Minister for War

On June 13th Hitler demanded from Papen that the ban on the Storm Troops be lifted On June 15th Hindenburg by decree legalised them again

Following up that success, Hitler demanded that all Communists should be expelled from the police force Through Göring, on June 24th, he handed an ultimatum to the Government "Martial Law must be proclaimed against the Reds "

At the beginning of July the Socialist newspaper *Vorwärts* was suppressed for five days

On July 27th, 20,000 Storm Troopers marched in a torchlight parade to the Berlin Stadium and Hitler addressed them

At the General Election on July 31st the Nazis won 230 seats The Communists even at this date won 89 seats, and the Social Democrats 133 seats

On August 7th Hitler demanded the chancellorship, but was refused

On August 13th Hindenburg received Hitler

again and offered him vice-chancellorship. Hitler refused. He demanded the powers which Mussolini had after the March on Rome.

On September 12th, a vote of "No Confidence" caused Papen to resign and the Reichstag was dissolved. The Communists were encouraged by the Government. Ten Nazis were shot in Hamburg on November 2nd. The Left Wing made its most powerful effort to gain power. As a result the Communists captured 100 seats and the Nazis were reduced to 196.

The British Press commented fallaciously that "The elections show that the Nazis have passed their peak," and it was assumed that Hitler's appeal to the masses was waning.

But Papen and his cabinet resigned again on November 17th. Hindenburg received Hitler again on November 19th, again offered him a subordinate post in a ministry and was again rebuffed.

On December 2nd, General Schleicher agreed to become Chancellor. Hitler declared war on the Government.

On December 8th Strasser broke with Hitler.

On December 11th a Five Power declaration conceded to Germany the right of rearmament.

At Lausanne in July the bill for outstanding German Reparations was finally called down to 3000 million marks.

### *AUSTRIA*

The Nazi Party made its presence felt by winning several seats in the elections. In opposition to them Dollfuss became Chancellor. Mussolini intervened to save the independence of Austria, guaranteeing the Government against Nazi domination.

Bankruptcy threatened Austria and a protocol for the issue of an international loan of 8½ million pounds was signed at Geneva. In return for this loan Austria reaffirmed her pledge not to seek union with Germany.

Schober and Seipel died this year

### *SPAIN*

On September 8th, Catalonia was granted autonomy.

Estates of the Grandees expropriated. Divorce instituted. Catholic Church disestablished and separated from the State. Houses taken from the Jesuit Order converted into secular schools. Private property of ex King Alfonso confiscated. There were several armed risings and mutinies in Spain.

### *JAPAN*

The Japanese were in an undeclared war with China and over ran Manchuria with their troops.

The Chinese made effective a boycott of Japanese goods and the Japanese retaliated by the armed occupation of Shanghai. In May the boycott was lifted on the condition that Shanghai be evacuated.

On March 9th, the Japanese set up a puppet government in Manchuria under the nominal rule of the ex-Emperor of China, Pu-yi. MANCHURIA became a JAPANESE PROTECTORATE

The American Government was dismayed by the first war between signatories of the Kellogg Pact and formulated the Stimson Doctrine, abjuring recognition of territory gained by aggression.

The Sino-Japanese dispute was taken to the League of Nations, where since Japan was a much stronger power than China she received much indulgence. But failing to obtain complete international approbation for her depredations upon Chinese territory, Japan in the following year quit the League.

*GREAT BRITAIN*

## Creation of the EXCHANGE STABILISATION ACCOUNT

Two thousand million pounds of War Loan were converted from bonds paying 5 per cent to bonds paying  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

Application of the MEANS TEST to unemployment benefit.

On June 16th MacDonald presided over Reparations Conference at Lausanne where, it was thought, a final settlement with Germany had been arranged

On December 15th the British Government addressed a note to Washington requesting a review of the War Debt problem. Britain paid a last full instalment, after which loomed DEFAULT

In the Irish Free State, Valera sought to abolish the oath of allegiance to the King and commenced a new quarrel with Great Britain by withholding the LAND ANNUITIES. Britain retaliated by imposing special duties on agricultural produce from the Free State

## FRANCE

On March 7th Briand died

On May 5th PRESIDENT DOUMER was ASSASSINATED Albert Lebrun became President on May 10

Tardieu was defeated in the General Elections

(May 1st-8th), and Herriot formed a Left Wing government. Herriot figured at the Conference of Lausanne where it was thought that "peace in our time" had been achieved, and in his excited pleasure the French Premier kissed a German stenographer.

On November 27th a Pact of Non-Aggression was signed with Soviet Russia.

France DEFAULTED on her AMERICAN DEBT PAYMENT. Herriot thought France ought to pay and he resigned. His place was taken by Paul-Boncour on December 14th.

### *POLAND AND SOVIET RUSSIA*

On July 25th Poland and the Soviet signed a NON-AGGRESSION PACT, the terms of which were defined the following year. In May, 1934, it was prolonged to 1945. In September, 1939, it was broken by the U.S.S.R.

## THE YEAR OF HITLER'S VICTORY, AND BEGINNING OF NAZI REGIME

THE YEAR 1933



### CHIEF EVENTS

HITLER'S COMPLETE VICTORY BEGINNING OF NAZI  
REGIME.

Introduction of ROOSEVELT's NEW DEAL.

Germany announced her intention to quit the League  
of Nations.

Failure of the Geneva Disarmament Conference.

THE BURNING OF THE REICHSSTADT

Prohibition repealed in America.

The Balkan Pact signed

Soviet Polish Convention on Non Aggression



## *GERMANY*

**T**HE year opened with a feud between Papen and Schleicher. Hindenburg began to disapprove of Schleicher. Papen came to the support of Hitler and they had an important conversation at Cologne on January 4th. Papen obtained for Hitler financial support from the Rhineland industrialists Hugenberg and the Nationalists rallied to the support of Hitler and Papen.

Schleicher came to a deadlock with Hindenburg on January 28th and resigned with his whole cabinet. Papen was invited to form a new ministry. Papen's only possible course was to nominate Hitler as Chancellor.

On January 29th 100,000 Communist workers demonstrated against Hitler in the Lustgarten.

At 11 a.m. on January 30th Hindenburg named ADOLF HITLER, CHANCELLOR OF THE REICH.

HITLER'S FIRST CABINET contained

Franz von Papen.

Hermann Göring

Wilhelm Frick.

Alfred Hugenberg

General Werner von Blomberg

Baron von Neurath

Hindenburg blessed them with the phrase : " Now, gentlemen, forward with God ! "

The Communist Party called a General Strike, but the workers did not rise.

On February 1st Hindenberg dissolved the Reichstag.

Hitler announced a Four Year Plan.

On February 2nd all Communist meetings in Germany prohibited.

On February 27th the BURNING OF THE REICHSTAG.

The Communists were at once blamed for the outrage, and it was the signal for the SUPPRESSION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. On March 1st, Hitler, Papen, Hugenburg and others broadcast to the German nation on the threat of Marxist revolution.

There were mass demonstrations against Communism and Social Democracy and on March 5th, in an atmosphere of extreme political excitement, the General Election took place.

Despite the suppression of the Communist Party and the violent propaganda against the Social Democrats there was a very heavy Socialist poll. Hitler and Hugenburg did not sweep the country. The figures for the principal parties were :

Nazis	288
Nationalists	52
Social Democrats	120
Communists	81
Centre	74

On March 12th the SWASTIKA FLAG WAS ADOPTED as national emblem, and the REPUBLICAN FLAG ABOLISHED

On March 23rd, GOVERNMENT BY DECREE COMMENCED

On May 2nd, LIQUIDATION OF THE TRADE UNIONS and seizure of their funds

On May 12th, ALL PROPERTIES OF THE CO-OPERATIVES CONFISCATED

On May 27th, ALL PROPERTY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONFISCATED

Dr Ley organised the German Labour Front in place of the Trade Unions

Hitler moved to eliminate all political parties other than the National Socialist Party and already in May it became clear that he would not shrink from an attempt to oust his ally Hugenberg

At the London Economic Conference on June 16th, Hugenberg demanded a return of the German colonies, and also a mandate to colonise and reorganise Russia. But this startling statement was repudiated by the Nazis

On June 22nd the Social Democratic Party was dissolved.

On June 29th Hugenberg resigned and voluntarily DISSOLVED THE NATIONALIST PARTY.

July 4th, DISSOLUTION OF THE CENTRE PARTY and of Bavarian People's Party.

On October 14th Germany announced that she would leave the League of Nations.

On the same day the state legislatures in Germany were dissolved and the local diets ceased. The dissolution of the Reichstag was announced, new elections to take place on November 12th.

On November 12th took place the FIRST ONE-PARTY ELECTION and the Nazis won the total 661 seats ; 92·2 per cent of the electorate voted for Hitler and the remainder of the voting papers were spoiled or unused.

On December 11th the new Reichstag met. All except two deputies (Papen and Hugenberg) wore brown shirts.

On December 23rd the Reichstag Fire Trial was concluded. Dmitroff, Torgler and others were acquitted ; Van der Lubbe condemned to death.

#### UNITED STATES

A dictatorship of another kind was set up in America by the President elect, Franklin Roosevelt.

An attempt was made to assassinate him on February 15th

On March 4th the President was inaugurated

There was almost complete failure of the banking system Most of the banks in the state of Michigan suspended payment and a general panic spread over the United States

On March 9th Roosevelt obtained from Congress extraordinary powers

Assistance and guarantees were given to all sound banks, enabling them to reopen But on April 19th AMERICA ABANDONED THE GOLD STANDARD

With the co-operation of certain professors, popularly known as the BRAINS TRUST, Roosevelt proceeded to salvage the middle and working classes Besides 15 million unemployed, there were 20 millions of middle-class people reduced to penury The President placed a control upon stock exchange gambling, instituted a system of relief, started public works on a vast scale and insisted on higher wages and better conditions for employees. The National Industrial Recovery Act (N.R.A.) was passed A code was issued for business men and consumers with the badge of the BLUE EAGLE

The gold backed dollar was recalled and a new dollar was issued The exchange value of the dollar decreased and on July 18th sank below the original parity of the pound sterling

On December 5th the free sale of alcoholic liquors was resumed after the troubled era of Prohibition.

The acts in connection with the NEW DEAL were as follows :

March 3rd. Emergency Bank Relief.

March 20th. Budget cut by \$1,000,000 ; veterans' relief by \$320,000,000.

May 12th. Agricultural Adjustment Act. Controlled Inflation.

May 18th. Muscle Shoals Tennessee Valley Act (for the construction of the great power station). Grant of \$500,000,000 for relief.

June 13th. N.R.A. Establishment of Code. Grant of \$2,000,000,000 to clear the mortgages on small homes whose owners feared foreclosure. New Banking Act to establish new system with security.

## AUSTRIA

ASSASSINATION OF KING ALFRED ALEXANDER IN VIENNA (1934)





On August 26th the Italo-Austro-Hungarian Pact was signed giving Austria a free zone at Trieste and other commercial privileges. The object of the pact was to forestall *anschluss* with Germany.

#### *SPAIN*

On November 19th there were General Elections in which the parties of the Left were severely defeated, and the Centre and Right gained a majority. Just after the elections there was an Anarchist insurrection which was with difficulty put down.

The Basques, after a plebiscite, demanded an autonomous government at Bilbao.

The new government of Spain, supported by Monarchists, Catholics, Actionists, Basque-Navarreists, was opposed to the anti-clericalism of its predecessors and also to all agitation from the Left.

#### *FRANCE*

On January 30th Daladier formed his first government, but was beset with great difficulties in the passing of financial measures. There was a strike of civil servants and State employees.

On October 24th Daladier was defeated in the Chamber and Sarraut became Premier. Daladier remained as Minister for War.

Sarraut fell on the tax issue and on November 27th Chautemps became Premier.

This year occurred the first of the sensational steamboat fires in France when *L'Atlantique* was burned in the Channel.

### *JAPAN*

The war upon China continued. Japan took Jehol.

On February 27th the British Government placed an embargo on the shipment of arms to China and Japan, the embargo to be operative only in the case that other powers took similar action. America took no similar action. The embargo lapsed on March 13th.

The relationship between Japan and the Soviet Union was strained owing to the refusal of the latter to sell the Chinese Eastern Railway.

### *JUGOSLAVIA*

King Alexander began to play a much more active part in international politics, his chief anxiety being to frustrate the ambitions of Italy upon the Balkan Peninsula.

The mutual obligations of the Little Entente powers were revised and strengthened in February.

In August King Alexander met King Boris of Bulgaria for the first time since before the Balkan War. The first step was taken towards reconciliation of Serbs and Bulgars. Alexander asked Boris to sign a non aggression pact.

On September 30th Alexander met King Carol at Bucharest. On October 3rd he met Boris again near Varna in Bulgaria. On October 4th he visited Kemal Pasha at Stamboul. Thence he transferred his *pourparlers* to Greece.

On November 27th, the BALKAN PACT was signed.

Italian agents were sent to Zagreb to assassinate King Alexander in December, but the plot failed and the would be assassins were arrested, one of them, Peter Oreb, making a complete confession.

#### POLAND AND SOVIET RUSSIA

The Polish and Bolshevik representatives in London signed a Convention on July 3rd, defining the meaning of the 1932 Non Aggression Pact. The main feature was that no political, military or economic happenings should be held as a pretext for invasion or armed intervention in the affairs of either state.

This Convention was proved to be worthless in 1939 when on September 18th the armies of the U.S.S.R suddenly invaded and seized the eastern territories of Poland.

*GREAT BRITAIN*

Ramsay MacDonald visited Mussolini in March and Roosevelt in April. In consultation with Roosevelt he agreed to call a WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE with a view to finding a *modus vivendi* for every state.

Abortive discussions of schemes for Disarmament continued, and on March 16th the British Draft Convention was presented at Geneva. Ramsay MacDonald's presence at Geneva gave a seeming importance to the fruitless deliberations.

Britain called the World Economic Conference for June 12th. Only one state in Europe felt able to continue debt payments to America (Finland), but Britain did make a token payment in silver in June. Sir Frederick Leith Ross was sent to the United States to enquire in what way further payments could be made.

The World Conference was opened by the King at South Kensington in the Geological Museum. Much mirth was evoked in France by the meeting of experts in a "museum of so ab."

The Conference sat from June 12th till July 27th and the only thing it achieved was a reduction of silver sales, which only India and the United States ratified. There was no discussion of war debts.

In 1933 a five-year scheme of armament

was started, partly in the hope that the building trade might benefit

There was another quarrel with the Soviet Union, owing to the arrest of British engineers for sabotage. The British Government retaliated on the U S S R. by suspending the Trade Agreement and prohibiting the entry of Soviet manufacturers and produce into Great Britain (April 18th)

In this year the "Loch Ness Monster" first appeared.



## THE YEAR OF ASSASSINATIONS

THE YEAR 1934



### CHIEF EVENTS

Assassination of Dollfuss.

Assassination of King Alexander of Jugoslavia.

Assassination of Schleicher, Röhm and others in Germany

Assassination of Kirof in Leningrad.

Germany and Poland signed a Ten Years Peace Pact

The U.S.S R. became a member of the League of Nations.

Death of Hindenburg



*GERMANY IN YEARS* PACT of

**O**N February 24th a TREATY WITH POLAND was  
peace and commerce ;  
signed

(of the Fire Trial)

On February 27th Dmitroff flew. He said that  
was sent by aeroplane to Mosco a German Soviet  
if he ever returned it would be to  
Republic

rces united under

On April 20th all police forces  
one command, of Himmler

conspiracy, never

In June Hitler got wind of the Storm Troopers  
adequately explained. While they, the Führer took  
were immobilised, on holiday,  
vengeance into his own hands

night to Röhm's

On June 30th he drove all the, Dietrich and  
villa, accompanied by Goebbels. Röhm was shot at  
others, and police guards. At  
sunrise.

ral von Schleicher

On the same morning General Papen was  
was murdered by Nazi guavith his life. The  
attacked, and barely escaped. Schleicher and Papen  
assumption was that Röhm, Schleicher with the support  
had conspired to make a putsch. Röhm commanded  
of the Storm Troopers, whom Ron Strasser, Ernst,  
Vengeance was carried out up

General von Ossow, Bollwitz, the head of the Storm Troopers' Press department, and on many others. All the bodies were cremated, and the ashes sent to nearest of kin.

On July 1st Germany defaulted on medium and long-term foreign debts.

Franz von Papen was appointed Minister plenipotentiary in Vienna.

On August 2nd Hindenburg died at the age of eighty-six. Hitler became Supreme ruler of Germany.

#### AUSTRIA

The efforts of the Heimwehr to suppress Communism continued, but met with stubborn resistance. A General Strike was threatened. Dollfuss countered by proclaiming martial law on February 12th. On that day commenced the massacre of the Viennese working class, the SIEGE OF THE KARL MARX HOR and other incidents. Regular troops were employed, using artillery and machine-guns, and the casualties among men, women and children were heavy.

The Four Power Pact was signed in Rome on March 17th, and there was much apprehension of a Habsburg restoration.

On April 30th Dollfuss assumed dictatorial power.

On July 1st the Republic became the "FEDERAL STATE OF AUSTRIA."

But the Nazis in Austria were as much disaffected as the Marxists, and on July 25th made an attempt to seize power. In the morning the Vienna wireless station was captured and the success of the *putsch* announced to the world. DOLFFUSS was ASSASSINATED. But the insurrection failed. Italian troops were moved to the Austrian frontier, and an occupation threatened. Herr von SCHUSCHNIGG became CHANCELLOR.

The assassins were executed and died shouting "Heil Hitler!"

Schuschnigg visited Mussolini at Florence and the Duce warned Hitler that an attempt to undermine the independence of Austria would encounter armed resistance on the part of Italy.

Again in November Schuschnigg visited Italy and conferred with Mussolini, who in the year 1934 figured as the unique protector of Austria.

### JUGOSLAVIA

Due to the initiative of King Alexander there was a reconciliation of the Bulgars and the Serbs. This was signalled by the STATE VISIT TO SOFIA in September.

In October there was an international plot to murder the King. Italy, Hungary and Austria were implicated. A professional assassin, of Bulgarian nationality, was sent to France on the occasion of King Alexander's visit. On October

9th this man KILLED ALEXANDER OF JUGOSLAVIA and M. LOUIS BARTHOU in Marseilles as they were driving from the quay.

Peter II was proclaimed King of Jugoslavia. Prince Paul, the late King's cousin, became Regent.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

In May the Little Entente powers recognised the Soviet. Rumania and Czechoslovakia established diplomatic relationship, but Jugoslavia had not done so, although it was her intention, up to the King's death. The Regent, Prince Paul, did not ratify the agreement of Jugoslavia to enter into diplomatic relations with the U.S.S.R.

Litvinof was endeavouring to form what was known at the time as an Eastern Locarno, and he was aided in this policy by M. Barthou, the Foreign Minister of France. Litvinof's new policy resulted in the admission of the Soviet Union to the League of Nations in October.

In domestic politics a regime of conciliation was shattered by the ASSASSINATION OF KUTOV on December 1st, by a visionary in Leningrad. A police terror was then let loose by Yagoda, the head of the G.P.U. After the arrest of Kamnev and Zinoviev, the TERROR TOOK AN ANTI-SEMITIC TURN.

In May the Non-Aggression Pact with Poland was extended to expire on December 31st, 1935.

## UNITED STATES

On January 30th the Gold Reserve Act was passed, enabling the President to devalue the dollar by 60 per cent of its gold value (It was hoped to raise the general level of prices by thus reducing the gold value of the currency )

On February 15th, by a new Relief Act, additional appropriations of \$950,000,000 were made available for the public works programme

Crop Loan Act, February 23rd Farm Relief Act, April 7th

On April 13th the important Johnson Debt Default Act was made law Foreign governments who were in default were debarred from having further financial transactions with the United States

In the summer the United States was visited by an agricultural calamity Owing to drought and defective forestry, the TOP SOIL of the MIDDLE WEST was CARRIED AWAY BY WIND On May 11th New York suffered an unparalleled dust cloud caused by this erosion of the earth

On June 12th the President was given arbitrary power to change the rates of tariffs where trade advantages could be swiftly secured

In the late summer and autumn occurred the great famine among animals in the Middle West, where grazing lands had been ruined Hundreds of head of cattle died

The generals who had been expelled from the army were re-instated.

Catalonia proclaimed itself an autonomous state, but its political leaders were reduced by the army under General Batet.

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

The report of the India Joint Select Committee was approved. Chief dissent from the recommendations of the White Paper had been that of Mr. Churchill.

This year, as Lord Privy Seal, Mr. Eden rose in importance, due to his industry in connection with the League. But on December 8th, at Geneva, in the arraignment of Hungary for complicity in the murder of King Alexander he caused Serbian disillusion.

Abyssinia, the Spanish Republic, Czechoslovakia) in order to ensure continued peace between the great powers. The movement was ultimately checked in 1939 when Poland was guaranteed against aggression.



# THE YEAR OF ITALIAN CONQUEST OF ABYSSINIA

THE YEAR 1935



## *CHIEF EVENTS*

JUBILEE OF KING GEORGE V

Laval signed pact with Mussolini.

ITALIAN INVASION OF ABYSSINIA.

Hoare's Speech at Geneva.

British General Election on "Collective Security"

### *SANCTIONS IMPOSED*

The Hoare Laval proposed compromise on Abyssinia.

Benes became President of Czechoslovakia.

Stoyadinovitch became Premier of Jugoslavia.

### *SAAR PLEBISCITE.*

German Air Force announced to be equal to that of Britain.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA SIGNED A PACT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE U.S.S.R.



## *ITALY*

**O**N January 4th Laval arrived in Rome to discuss the outstanding problems which divided the interests of France and Italy. It was asserted afterwards by Mussolini that Laval left him a free hand in Abyssinia. France signed an agreement.

On January 21st the Fascist Grand Council announced military measures to deal with Abyssinia, in connection with the Wal-Wal incident. On January 3rd Abyssinia had sought the assistance of the League of Nations to deal with Italy's claims.

Part of the Agreement between Laval and Mussolini was published. France ceded a desert in North Africa. The Tunis Convention was extended till 1965. Austria's independence again obtained a mutual guarantee.

On March 21st Italy protested in Berlin against German rearmament.

May 5th, proposal for a Danubian Pact.

General De Bono went to Eritrea and Somaliland as High Commissioner. Troops and arms continued to be moved into North Africa. General mobilisation was called for October 2nd,

and on October 3rd the invasion of Abyssinia commenced.

On September 11th, at Geneva, Sir Samuel Hoare made his famous speech championing the rights of small nations and of Abyssinia in particular, and he announced COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE TO ALL ACTS OF UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION. This phrase became reduced and popularised in the words COLLECTIVE SECURITY.

The League pronounced ITALY THE AGGRESSOR.

SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED and became operative about November 18th.

But Sir Samuel Hoare, after a successful General Election in Britain, lent his approval to compromise in what is known as the HOARE-LAVAL peace offer of December.

### *GERMANY*

In January the Saar Plebiscite resulted in an overwhelming majority of votes for the return of the territory which was restituted to the Reich on March 1st.

On March 16th Hitler revived Conscription. Germany was to have an army of 12 corps and 36 divisions, some 550,000 men under arms. The League Council condemned German rearmament in April. Great Britain, however, came to a separate understanding with the Third Reich, agreeing to her building a fleet up to 35 per cent

of the naval force of the British Empire, and the right to equal submarine construction (June 18th) By October 15th Germany already had twenty-one submarines

On May 21st Hitler declared Germany would not come back to the League till the Covenant had been separated from the Treaty of Versailles He said he was willing to join an "Air Locarno" and to outlaw bombing of open towns He would co-operate for world peace, but only if Germany had an equality of rights

Anti-Semitism raged throughout the year and at the Nuremberg Conference on September 11th, anti-Jewish legislation was announced The new laws deprived Jews of German citizenship, debarred stockbrokers from the exchange, prohibited marriage with Aryans and set up separate schools for Jewish children

The Swastika became the unique flag of the Reich

On November 8th the Steel Helmets were dissolved

The sterilisation of the unfit was introduced Fifty six thousand persons were sterilised during the year

The ill feeling between Germany and Italy continued throughout the year and was aggravated by the STRENGTH THROUGH JOINT EFFORT Accord as to German repudiation of treaty obligations But upon the application of Sanctions to Italy, Germany took

a neutral stand. By refraining from joining in the international condemnation of Italy she prepared the way for an UNDERSTANDING WITH FASCISM.

### *FRANCE*

January, the settlement of outstanding differences with Italy.

FRANCO-SOVIET TREATY signed on May 2nd.

May 13th Laval visited Moscow.

France obstructed the proposal to impose Sanctions upon Italy, but eventually agreed, greatly angering Mussolini (October).

Flandin resigned and Bouisson became Premier, May 31st, with Caillaux as Finance Minister. Bouisson gave way to Laval who became Premier on June 7th. Laval was accorded full powers to protect the franc, and he made a series of economy decrees on July 15th.

There had been an outbreak of Fascist violence in France, but on December 2nd Colonel de la Rocque consented to disband his armed followers LIQUIDATION OF THE CROIX DE FEU.

### *JUGOSLAVIA*

On May 5th there was a General Election. Yevtitch, not having any longer the support of the Prince Regent, resigned. Stoyadinoitch.



GENERAL FRANCO

Topical Press



1935

possessing the confidence of the Prince, was invited to form a ministry Stoyadinovich pursued a policy favourable to Germany, and Göring was an honoured visitor to Belgrade

### GREECE

In February the Venizelists seized some vessels of the fleet. There was a revolutionary rising in Macedonia which was put down. General Kondylis, with the army behind him, dissolved Parliament and announced General Elections. Revolutionaries and extreme Republicans boycotted the elections.

General Kondylis made a purge in the new Parliament which then proclaimed Greece a monarchy KING GEORGE II RETURNED TO THE THRONE

### SOVIET RUSSIA

In January Voroshilov announced that the strength of the army, including police and customs guards, had been increased to 940,000 men. There was a new programme of mechanisation of the army. Military rank as in the Tsarist army was re-introduced, except the rank of general. Tukhachevsky, Blucher and others became field marshals.

Many thousands of arrests were made in connection with the murder of Kirov and an alleged

Trotskyite conspiracy to assassinate Stalin and his more prominent supporters in the Communist Party.

Piece work became the basis of payment of wages in industry. The birth of *Stakhanovitism*.

Mr. Eden, M. Laval and M. Benesh visited the Soviet Republic.

### *POLAND*

The death of Marshal Pilsudski.

### *PALESTINE*

As a result of the quarrel with Britain over Sanctions, Italy ceased to back Zionism and backed the Arabs. Arab newspapers began to be subsidised from Italy. The ambition to dominate the Mediterranean caused Haifa in Palestine to become a port of great political importance.

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

The India Act, providing provincial autonomy, federation of all India and responsible government (with safeguards), issued January 25th, received royal assent on August 2nd.

MacDonald resigned in June and Stanley Baldwin became Prime Minister. Hoare became

Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax became Minister for War

Italy's aggressive designs upon Abyssinia caused increasing agitation, culminating in Sir Samuel Hoare's vigorous speech at Geneva on September 11th. But on the Labour side, Mr Lansbury, leader of the Opposition, opposed the application of force to Italy. On this issue he resigned. MAJOR ATTLEE BECAME LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. Lord Ponsonby, leader in the Lords, resigned on the same ground.

Mr Baldwin decided to seek from the country a mandate for his vigorous League policy. Parliament dissolved on October 25th and a GENERAL ELECTION took place on November 14th. This was the Collective Security Election. Baldwin secured a decisive victory with a majority of 247, but Labour did win 96 more seats than they had held at dissolution.

But the new government did not implement the mandate it had received. An Italianophile influence soon became manifest. There was an uproar of popular indignation and Baldwin was obliged to sacrifice his Foreign Minister. Sir Samuel Hoare resigned on December 22nd and Mr Anthony Eden, till then Minister without portfolio, took his place.

The year was otherwise memorable in Britain as that of King George V's SILVER JUBILEE, which was celebrated with great pageantry on May 6th.



## THE YEAR OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

THE YEAR 1936



### *CHIEF EVENTS*

THE OUTBREAK OF THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR.

The Arab Rising in Palestine.

Death of King George V

ABDICTION OF EDWARD VIII

Subjugation of Abyssinia by Italy

Kamenev and Zinoviev shot.

HITLER MARCHED INTO THE RHINELAND

Hitler denounced the Waterways Section of the  
Versailles Treaty

The Popular Front began its career in France under  
M Blum.

THE NON INTERVENTION IN SPAIN PACT



## *GREAT BRITAIN*

**O**N January 20th King George V died King Edward VIII ruled in his stead In the late autumn, when preparations for the Coronation of the new King were well advanced, opposition to his proposed American consort developed On December 3rd, Mr Baldwin stated that the Government was not disposed to introduce legislation to allow the King to marry the American lady On December 7th Mr Baldwin stated that he had advised the throne negatively on the subject of a morganatic marriage Confronted by the choice of renouncing his proposed marriage, or abdicating, King Edward VIII chose the latter On December 10th Mr Baldwin announced to the Commons the ABDICATION OF THE KING The Archbishop of Canterbury broadcast to the nation, and GEORGE VI BECAME KING

It was a disturbed year in British politics. Subsequent upon the BUDGET SECRETS LEAKAGE scandal in May, Mr J H Thomas resigned.

There were many clashes between the followers of Sir Oswald Mosley and the Communists. A PUBLIC ORDER ACT was passed prohibiting the wearing of political uniforms This was a

precaution against Black Shirts, Brown Shirts and Red Shirts.

Hitler continued repudiating one by one the obligations of the Versailles Treaty and he caused a great sensation in London when he took over the demilitarised Rhineland and began to fortify it. But Britain took no measures against Germany.

Similarly the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War and the participation of Italians and Germans caused some dismay. But Britain took no action to counter it. She began the POLICY OF NON-INTERVENTION.

A slow beginning was made in the policy of rearmament, and Sir Thomas Inskip was appointed Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence.

Mr. Baldwin brought back Sir Samuel Hoare and made him First Lord of the Admiralty, and Hore-Belisha joined the cabinet.

### *SPAIN*

President Zamora dissolved the Cortes, February 16th, and a General Election was announced.

A Popular Front had been made in imitation of France, and in the elections the union of the parties of the Left defeated the Right and Centre

Popular Front . . . . .	259 seats
Right . . . . .	165 seats
Centre . . . . .	52 seats

Don Manuel Azanja formed a cabinet on February 19th, but excluded Socialists and Communists.

On April 7th the Cortes passed a Vote of Censure on the President for having dissolved the Cortes in February. Azanja could not hold his place as Premier, which was usurped by Quiroga. There were great disorders in the country, strikes, mutinies, murders and a vendetta between the Left and Right.

On July 17th in the Canary Islands, General Franco headed a rebellion and rapidly recruited followers. He was aided by Italy and Germany. The air force and navy were on the side of the Government, but nine-tenths of the army went over to Franco. A large extent of territory was overrun by the insurrectionaries.

On September 4th Largo Caballero formed a government of Socialists and Communists. The siege of the Alcazar and its relief by Franco took place in the autumn. Franco's troops advanced to the suburbs of Madrid and street fighting took place.

Four Anarchists were admitted into the cabinet on November 5th. On November 7th the Government fled from Madrid to greater security at Valencia.

General Franco had set up a provincial government in Burgos in July. In November Germany

and Italy recognised this as the Government of Spain.

Britain and France organised NON-INTERVENTION.

### *PALESTINE*

The ARAB RISING commenced on the night of April 15th, when an armed gang held up ten cars, took out those passengers who were Jews and shot them.

There was a Jewish Revenge movement, and several Arabs were killed. On April 21st the leaders of the five Arab parties called a General Strike.

General Wauchope, High Commissioner, sent to Egypt for reinforcements in May. On May 18th the British Government announced a Royal Commission to visit Palestine as soon as order was restored.

On May 24th four Arab leaders were expelled.

Outrages increased, and the troops had to be reinforced. There was a skirmish on the Tel Aviv road on July 26th, and the British bombed the Arabs who left twelve dead on the sand.

Names of Members of Royal Commission announced on July 29th.

Members of the Arab Committee appealed to Arabia, Irak and Yemen. In August the Arab

strife became still more violent. By September, British troops up to 10,000 had arrived. It was decided to send a division under General Dill. The new army began to disembark on September 23rd.

There was temporary pacification and on October 11th King Ibn Saud appealed to the Palestine Arabs to make a peaceful settlement.

### *ITALY*

On May 5th the complete conquest of Abyssinia was announced and King Victor Emmanuel became "Emperor of Ethiopia."

As a result of the ill-feeling caused by Sanctions, Italy no longer supported the League or Anglo-French policy. When on March 7th Hitler began the militarisation of the Rhineland, Mussolini took no action.

Schuschnigg came to Rome and Mussolini advised him to come to an understanding with Germany. Germany had recognised the Ethiopian Empire and was her only supporter among the great powers. To facilitate an understanding with Germany and remove the tension over Austria, Count Ciano was appointed Foreign Minister. On July 11th the new Italian policy bore fruit in an Austro-German Agreement.

Ciano and Neurath came to a secret agreement in support of Franco's conspiracy in Spain.

Mussolini began to assimilate the Nazi anti-Semitism by backing the Arab attack upon the Jews in Palestine. Thus began the Fascist-Nazi co-operation, which remained secret for several months, but was made public on November 2nd, when Mussolini in a speech at Milan announced the ROME-BERLIN Axis. His audience sang the Hoist Wessel song in a moment of boundless enthusiasm. Fascists and Nazis had become united.

When the Non-Intervention in Spain Committee was proposed, Italy took a violent anti-Communist line.

### *GERMANY*

Hitler denounced the Locarno Pact and marched into the Rhineland on March 7th. A General Election taken immediately showed that 99 per cent of the German people supported the Führer's actions. In exchange for Locarno, Hitler offered France and Belgium a Twenty-Five Years' Non-Aggression Pact.

In May Goring was given special power, to deal with the economic situation and was soon joint economic dictator with Schacht. Rearmament continued at a forced tempo, and Dr Goebbels conducted an urgent propaganda to have GUNS BEFORE BUTTER.

On July 11th Germany gave a promise of no interference in Austrian politics. Austria re-entered

nised that she was a German state Hitler lifted the ban which he had imposed on tourist traffic to Austria since the murder of Dollfuss.

German aeroplanes transported Moroccan troops to Spain to help Franco in July, and Germany became active in the armed conspiracy against the Spanish Government. A secret understanding with Italy was in force and Fascists and Nazis began their international co-operation.

In November the Rome Berlin Axis became public, and Hitler denounced the waterways clauses of the Versailles Treaty. Japan signed an ANTI COMINTERN agreement at the end of the month, the beginning of the Anti Comintern Pact.

In August the Olympic Games proved a triumph for German youth and Nazi organisation.

### FRANCE

On February 13th M Blum, the Jewish Socialist leader, was beaten up by a party of French monarchists. The Action Française was dissolved. The assault on Blum greatly enhanced his chances for the approaching General Election. The FRONT POPULAIRE of Socialists, Communists and Radicals obtained a majority of 140. Exit Laval!

Blum began a policy of appeasement of the working class, and passed legislation to give

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY. A forty-hour week was introduced. The franc was devalued.

Blum was not so successful in foreign politics and compromised the Popular Front by his policy of non-intervention in Spain which was in effect support of Fascism rather than of Democracy.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

The year was remarkable for the Zinovief-Kamenef trial in which evidence was given that Trotsky had allied himself with the Nazi Germans to bring about a counter-revolution in the U.S.S.R. On August 24th the verdict was pronounced. KAMENEF AND ZINOVIEF AND SMIRNOF were CONDEMNED TO DEATH. Of the sixteen prisoners executed on the next morning, ten were Jews. The Stalinist revolution received its ANTI-SEMITIC tinge, making it possible at a later date for a Hitler-Stalin understanding.

Fast upon these executions the Jewish head of the G.P.U., YAGODA, WAS ARRESTED. Agronof and several other Jews in the police service were removed. A Russian, Yezhof, became head of the police. The prominent Jewish journalist Karl Radek was arrested. Awaiting trial, Tomsky committed suicide.

Towards the end of the year the new STATE CONSTITUTION became law. Under this constitution, one-party elections were introduced in

Nazi lines Provision was made for petty allotments of land for the private use of collectivised peasants

Maxim Gorky died in June. André Gide and other foreign Communists were invited to the funeral Gide, upon his return to France, made a sensational attack upon the social tendency of the revolution under Stalin.

Another prominent Jewish Communist, Bela Kun, once dictator of Hungary, was placed under arrest and disappeared

#### *UNITED STATES*

The Supreme Court decided against the legality of the agricultural schemes of the administration It also invalidated the minimum wage law There was a strong Press campaign against Roosevelt. Nevertheless in the Presidential Election in November he gained a larger majority for his second term of office than he had for his first. Against Mr Landon, the Republican candidate, he carried every state in the Union except two

This was the first year of marked economic recovery in the United States, though the lower middle class and a part of the farming community still remained sadly impoverished and had not regained their former purchasing power

*JAPAN*

The signing of the German-Japanese Anti-Comintern Pact in November gave a fillip to Japanese ambitions in China. Her aggressive behaviour in North China increased.

*TURKEY*

The powers signed a Convention, permitting the refortification of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

## THE YEAR OF THE OUTBREAK OF JAPANESE WAR ON CHINA

THE YEAR 1937



### *CHIEF EVENTS*

OUTBREAK OF JAPANESE WAR ON CHINA.

Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth  
Italy left the League of Nations.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN BECAME PRIME MINISTER OF  
BRITAIN

Lord Halifax sent to Germany to sound Hitler

TUKHACHEVSKY AND SEVEN BOLSHEVIK ARMY COM-  
MANDERS SHOT IN THE U.S.S.R.

Death of Masaryk.

Italian Treaty of Friendship with Jugoslavia.



## *GREAT BRITAIN*

**I**N January there was a GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT WITH ITALY. The two powers agreed to respect one another's rights in the Mediterranean.

Several British ships were, however, torpedoed, presumably by Italian submarines in the service of General Franco. Despite that, Mr Chamberlain and Mussolini exchanged letters in August, Britain trying to overcome the Italian hostility which was an aftermath of the imposition of Sanctions. But the destruction of ships became intolerable and in September the NYON CONFERENCE was held, and Italy was made partly responsible for the patrol of the Mediterranean and the security of shipping.

In the British parliament it was decided to increase the salaries of members to 600 pounds a year, the Prime Minister's to 10,000 pounds, and that of other cabinet ministers to 5,000. Income tax was raised to five shillings in the pound.

The Leader of the Opposition was to have 2,000 pounds annually.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were crowned on May 12th.

The Government were permitted to issue a loan for purposes of Rearmament, not to exceed 400 million pounds (March). In the current Budget estimates it was indicated that 80 million pounds of expenditure would be met out of this loan.

On May 28th, Mr. Baldwin resigned and **NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN BECAME PRIME MINISTER.**

Sir John Simon became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hore-Belisha Minister for War. Halifax became Lord President of the Council and Duff Cooper went to the Admiralty. Mr. Eden still remained at the Foreign Office.

Mr. Chamberlain's policy of APPLESMENT found expression in the correspondence with the Duce, but also in sending Lord Halifax as a personal emissary to Hitler. Halifax visited Berlin on November 17th, and had long conversations with the Führer, but little was made public. It was said in Vienna and Prague that Hitler had been offered a free hand in Eastern Europe in exchange for abandoning the claim to colonies, but that seems improbable. There was some agitation on the ground that the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, seemed to have been over-ridden by the Prime Minister.

### JAPAN

Various murders and petty skirmishes in July and August were the pretext for a new invasion.

of China by Japan Undeclared war commenced on August 11th

The British Ambassador was seriously wounded on August 25th

On August 21st a Non-Aggression Pact between China and the Soviet Union was signed

The Japanese took Shanghai In Pekin they set up a Chinese government of their own in December The Japanese troops advanced rapidly from Shanghai to the encirclement and assault of the Chinese capital, Nanking The official Chinese capital had been transferred to Chungking in November On December 17th the JAPANESE TOOK NANKING

There were protests from the United States because of incidents, but despite the Neutrality Act, America sold munitions of war to Japan in large quantities

There were many protests from the British Government, and apologies for outrages were obtained on December 30th

The Nine Power Pact, guaranteeing the integrity of China, was invoked at the Brussels Conference, but proved to be worthless

### ITALY

In June the Italian expeditionary force in Spain was defeated at Guadalajara.

In September Mussolini visited Hitler in Berlin and the Rome-Berlin axis was celebrated.

In November Italy joined the Anti-Comintern Pact.

It would appear that Hitler and Mussolini had had a secret bargain over Austria. There was no further mention by Mussolini of a guarantee of the independence of Austria.

### PALESTINE

The Royal Commission issued its Report on July 7th. It pronounced against the Mandate as unworkable and recommended revision of the Mandate by the League. Its plan was that Britain should take Jerusalem and Bethlehem and a strip of territory to the sea, the rest of Palestine to be divided equitably between the hostile races.

Racial strife continued. There were many Arab, Jewish and British casualties. On September 26th, Mr. Andrews, Commissioner for Galilee, was killed.

The British proscribed the Arab Higher Committee and deposed the Mufti. The death penalty for outrages was enforced.

### SPAIN

The year was remarkable for the Dictator of MADRID. But Franco took Malaga on February

8th, and BILBAO on June 19th. The Asturian miners were then reduced. The Government had a success at Guadalajara in June and near Teruel in December.

### *GERMANY*

Schacht retired, leaving Göring as economic dictator.

On January 30th Hitler said that the DAY OF POLITICAL SURPRISES WAS OVER.

In February Germany declared that Czechoslovak aerodromes were designed to accommodate Soviet aeroplanes for use against the Third Reich. Much encouragement was given this year to Henlein, who was organising the Germans in Sudetenland. Germany claimed all Germans in other lands (except those who had been denationalised). Bohle was appointed head of a German organisation for regulating the position of Germans living abroad.

The German battleship *Deutschland* was bombed by the Spanish Government on May 30th, and Germany took immediate reprisals by shelling Almeria.

The campaign against the foreign Press began to be intensified and in August *The Times* correspondent was expelled from Berlin.

In September Hitler received Mussolini with great pomp and circumstance. The Duce was taken to see Krupp's works and the armament

factories and said he had listened to the STEEL HEART OF GERMANY.

The BERLIN-ROME Axis was celebrated, and the alliance of Fascism and Nazism had become a dominating factor in the new European political situation. Together the two leaders agreed to settle all European problems.

### *FRANCE*

The Left Wing of the Front Populaire received a serious blow in June when M. Blum capitulated in a struggle to obtain special powers to deal with the financial situation. The Radical, Chautemps, became Premier. M. Bonnet became Minister of Finance.

The sessions of the Non-Intervention Committee kept France in close collaboration with Great Britain, and the sympathy of the French Communists for the Government of Spain failed to find expression in military support.

M. Delbos, the new Foreign Minister, made a tour of the eastern capitals of Europe with a view to rehabilitating French prestige. Most remarkable was his cold official reception in Belgrade where the police made baton charges on the crowds demonstrating in favour of France.

During this year began the dispute with the Turkish Republic as to Alexandretta.

Mussolini

THE FOUR POWER CONFERENCE IN MUNICH (1938)

Hader

M. Döblin

Mr Neville Chamberlain





### *JUGOSLAVIA*

Pact of Friendship with Bulgaria in January, Pact of Friendship with Italy in March, the latter in opposition to the desires of the people

The signing of a Concordat with Rome caused a revolt of the Orthodox Church against the Government. Bishops and priests were bludgeoned in police charges for whose actions the Catholic Minister of the Interior, the Rev Dr Koroshets, was responsible.

The Patriarch Varnava died under suspicious circumstances, and it was considered he had been poisoned by agents of the Government. The highly unpopular Prime Minister, Milan Stoyadinovitch, raised himself to be dictator. He started to introduce Fascism and was hailed by his followers as Führer. Although he visited London and was very warmly received, he had in effect abandoned the Jugoslav-French understanding and had become a foreign favourite both of Hitler and Mussolini.

### *CZECHOSLOVAKIA*

Death of Masaryk.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

Non-Aggression Pact with China signed

Disappearance of Marshal Blucher, commander of the Far-Eastern Army

Suicide in June of Gamarnik, Assistant-Commissar for Defence.

Arrest and execution of Tukhachevsky, also Assistant-Commissar for Defence. Execution of principal officers of the Russian General Staff on charge of having with Tukhachevsky, Gamarnik and others plotted a military *coup* upon Moscow.

#### PURGE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY and OF THE ARMY.

On January 30th Pyatakof, Serebryakof and many others were condemned to death. Radek and Sokolnikof were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

# THE YEAR OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION OF AUSTRIA, THE THREAT TO THE CZECHS, AND THE MUNICH AGREEMENT

THE YEAR 1938



## CHIEF EVENTS

GERMANY SEIZED AUSTRIA.

Munich Settlement of German Minority Question in  
Czechoslovakia.

ANGLO-GERMAN MUNICH AGREEMENT barring War  
between the two countries

Dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

THE GREAT NOVEMBER POGROM OF GERMAN JEWS.

Rikof, Bukharin and Yagoda shot for treason.

Great Britain recognised the Italian Empire in  
Abyssinia.

THE DEATH OF KEMAL ATATURK.



## *GERMANY*

ON February 4th Hitler became Commander in Chief of the German Army. Herr von Ribbentrop became Foreign Minister. Blomberg, who had been Commander-in Chief, had resigned. General von Fritsch and other generals had also resigned. It is thought that they did so because they could not approve a plan of marching into Austria.

Ribbentrop had taken von Neurath's place.

On February 12th Hitler summoned the Austrian Chancellor, von Schuschnigg, to Berchtesgaden. In a very stormy interview the Führer rated the Austrian, showing him clearly that he was deserted by his Italian guarantor and must do the will of Germany.

Schuschnigg was obliged to incorporate in his cabinet the Nazi leader, Seyss-Inquart. He attempted to hold a Plebiscite on the question of *anschluss*, but was forestalled by German military action. He resigned, and HITLER ANNEXED AUSTRIA.

The resignation was on March 11th. The German troops had reached the Brenner Pass on March 12th. Hitler arrived in Vienna on

March 14th. A Plebiscite under Nazi auspices was held on April 10th.

The Vienna gold reserve of 10 million pounds went to the Reichsbank.

Hitler visited Rome on May 3rd and there was organised for him a bewilderingly spectacular reception. Hitler had said that the frontier line on the Brenner Pass was eternal, and as regards the Italian betrayal of Austria, Mussolini reminded England and France that he HAD NOT FORGOTTEN SANCTIONS.

It seems likely that the partition of Czechoslovakia was determined at this meeting of Hitler and Mussolini. As the summer progressed the agitation of Henlein and the Sudeten Germans grew more and more urgent. The Czechs feverishly worked on schemes of settlement which proved obviously unacceptable to Hitler. Runciman was sent to advise the Czechs on July 25th, and arrived in Prague on August 3rd. Large-scale German manoeuvres were held on August 13th.

At the Tenth Annual Nazi Party Congress at Nuremberg on September 5th, Hitler demanded "Self-Determination for the three and a half millions in Czechoslovakia" Henlein was present.

On September 15th Mr. Chamberlain flew to meet Hitler at Berchtesgaden.

Czechoslovakia accepted a compromise plan dictated by Chamberlain and Daladier on

September 21st. Hitler received Chamberlain for a second time, at Godesberg, but the Führer's attitude to the Czechs had stiffened, and his demands had increased during the week. A new crisis was forced in Czechoslovakia, the Premier, Mr Hodza, resigned. The people in Prague clamoured for war, and for the leadership of General Sirovy who had won a reputation with the Czech Legion in Siberia.

On September 26th Hitler sent an ultimatum. All his demands must be met by October 1st. General Sirovy did not show a warlike spirit, and the new Czech Government began to be passive to Fate. Nevertheless, it had up till then the promise of armed support both by France and the U.S.S.R.

To avoid war Chamberlain and Daladier flew to Munich on September 29th and met Hitler and Mussolini. France and England accepted Hitler's demands.

On the day after this meeting, September 30th, Chamberlain was successful in obtaining from the Führer a promise of Anglo-German peace. This is known as the MUNICH PEACE PACT.

"We, the German Führer and Chancellor and the British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting to-day, and are agreed in recognising that the question of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for the two countries and for Europe."

We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again.

We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other question that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference and thus to contribute to assure the peace of Europe.

ADOLF HITLER.

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN."

On October 1st the German army began to occupy Sudetenland.

On October 5th Benesh resigned.

By October 16th the German occupation was completed.

In November, Herr von Rath, a German diplomatic official, was killed by a Jew in Paris. In Germany extraordinary reprisals for this murder were taken upon the Jews as a whole. The beating-up and plundering of the Jews commenced on November 8th and lasted several days, culminating in the publication of a series of new decrees directed against the race. A fine of 1,000 million marks was imposed on them.

On December 6th Ribbentrop arrived in Paris to conclude a Peace Pact with France, recognising that there were no territorial questions outstanding.

ing and that the frontier line as then established was final

Hitler announced that the forthcoming December 25th would be a CHRISTMAS OF PEACE

### GREAT BRITAIN

On February 20th Eden resigned    LORD HALIFAX BECAME FOREIGN SECRETARY

On April 11th Great Britain recognised the Italian Empire in Abyssinia, and on April 16th an Anglo-Italian Agreement was signed

The Glasgow Exhibition was opened on May 3rd

In August England began to be aware of the storm approaching over German claims to her minorities in Czechoslovakia. A sensation was produced on September 7th by an article in *The Times* suggesting a mode of settlement. Lord Runciman was treating with Czechs and Sudeten Deutsch. In the course of September, Mr Chamberlain flew three times to meetings with Hitler in Germany and finally agreed to a settlement largely on German lines. He was also successful in obtaining the MUNICH PEACE PACT.

The country was being placed hurriedly on a war defence basis in September and the shadow of immeasurable calamity hung over the people. So the Prime Minister returning with peace had a remarkable reception.

But Mr. Duff Cooper, First Lord of the Admiralty, at once resigned in protest against the Munich policy, and the Prime Minister was hotly criticised by Mr. Winston Churchill and the Opposition in Parliament.

Despite the Peace Pact with Germany, measures of defence were hurried on at a greatly increased tempo.

### *POLAND*

In March the quarrel with Lithuania, which had continued since the Poles seized Vilna in 1920, came to a head as a result of a frontier incident. Poland mobilised, but Lithuania quickly came to terms, and peace was patched up.

When the Germano-Czech crisis was precipitated in August, Poland put in a claim for the cession of territory possessing a Polish minority. Poles threatened Czechoslovakia and the U.S.S.R. denounced the Soviet-Polish Non-Aggression Pact, since the Soviet obligations to Czechoslovakia in case of attack cancelled out the provisions of the Soviet-Polish Pact in the case of Poles being at war with Czechoslovakia.

On October 1st, the Czechs were obliged to recognise Polish claims, and a Polish army forthwith occupied the district of Teschen.

Poland, always having pretensions to be considered one of the great powers of Europe, was irritated by not having been asked to the conference

table at Munich, but she was able to deal with the weak Czech Government unilaterally

Poland closed the corridor of Ruthenia as a precaution against further penetration east by the Germans

In Russian treason trials, however, it had been stated that Poland regarded complaisantly a future penetration of the Russian Ukraine by Germany

On November 26th, however, the Pact between the USSR and Poland was re-established

#### SPAIN

April 5th, Dr Negrín formed a new government. Lerida fell Electric power-central for Barcelona taken Franco's armies, driving across Catalonia, reached the Mediterranean on April 15th. Valencia and Barcelona separated

The Jesuits were readmitted into territory of the Burgos Government. The royal estates were restituted to Alfonso

Republican refugees began to cross the Pyrenees in large numbers

THE NON INTERVENTION COMMITTEE CEASED TO FUNCTION No further meetings after July

*FRANCE*

Chautemps resigned on March 10th and Blum was set to form a new ministry, but during cabinet-making time Germany seized Austria, which caused difficulties for the Socialist leader. His government lasted till April 8th.

On April 10th DALADIER BECAME PREMIER, and BONNET FOREIGN MINISTER, a combination which, for French politics, was destined to last unusually long. These two ministers were still in power in September, 1939, when France entered upon the Second War with Germany.

The new government tried to get on to better terms with Italy but failed. Anglo-French co-operation became much more close after April 27th, when Daladier and Bonnet visited London to confer upon the growing German menace to Czechoslovakia.

In May the exchange value of the franc was lowered to 179 to the pound.

Paris received the King and Queen of England on July 19th.

In September the Czech crisis became acute. Subsequent upon Mr. Chamberlain's first visit to Hitler, Daladier and Bonnet flew to London on September 18th. They agreed to the terms of an Anglo-French plan which was submitted to the Czechs on September 19th and accepted by them on the 21st. But the Germans, despite

more. After Chamberlain saw Hitler the second time, Daladier and Bonnet again came to London

Daladier went to the Four Power Conference at Munich on September 28th, where peace for the time being was saved. France had been obliged to withdraw from her support of the Czechoslovak Republic.

The French Parliament approved the Munich agreement on October 4th.

On November 23rd, Chamberlain and Halifax visited Paris with the purpose of the further co-ordination of Anglo-French policy. At the end of the month Ribbentrop came to Paris and gave assurance of German good will towards France, in a signed declaration.

On December 17th Italy denounced the Laval Agreement of January 7th, 1935.

### ITALY

There were negotiations for an Anglo-Italian understanding which resulted in the resignation of Mr Anthony Eden, who because of the Sanctions policy had been regarded in Italy as especially hostile to Fascist foreign policy. Mr Eden resigned on February 20th, leaving the way clear for a *rapprochement*, and the Anglo-Italian Agreement was signed on April 16th. This agreement was not to come into effect till the Italian legionaries had been withdrawn from Spain.

Mussolini was impatient of the restriction and ill feeling lasted until he met Chamberlain at Munich during the Czech crisis. The Duce took the initiative which resulted in the MUNICH CONFERENCE on September 30th. He discussed the Anglo-Italian Agreement and the withdrawal from Spain with the British Prime Minister. As a gesture he retired 10,000 legionaries from Spain on October 8th.

The Anglo-Italian Agreement came into force on November 16th and Britain recognised the King of Italy as Emperor of Abyssinia.

But the relationship of Italy to France degenerated, and December saw the outbreak of Fascist AGITATION FOR JIBUTI, CORSICA, TUNIS, etc.

In May Hitler had been received with pomp in Rome. The co-operation of Italy and Germany was increased throughout the year, and anti-Jewish laws were adopted.

There was some difference in October when Italy was supporting Hungary in that country's desire for a common frontier with Poland. Ribbentrop discussed the matter with Ciano at Vienna, and agreement was reached.

### TURKEY

Death of Kemal Pasha (Ataturk) on November 10th.

### SOVIET RUSSIA

The U.S S R. began to withdraw its " volunteers " from Spain

Papanin performed a remarkable exploit by spending nine months on an ice flow in the Arctic

The Third Five Year Plan commenced

The trial of Rikof, Bukharin, Rakovsky, Yagoda and others took place in March, unmasking an alleged plot of the Polish Government, abetted by Communist traitors and having as its object the successful invasion by Germany of the Ukraine, and the establishment of a less Socialistic Government in Moscow. Rikof, Bukharin and Yagoda were shot. Rakovsky was sent to prison for twenty years.

The U.S S R. denounced the Non Aggression Pact with Poland in September, but failed to come to the active assistance of Czechoslovakia in the crisis. No representative of the Soviet was called to the Munich Conference. The dispute was settled without reference to Litvinov, which proved to be a pronounced set back to the prestige and influence of the Communist Foreign Secretary

A new agreement with Poland was signed on November 26th

In December, the Soviet Union refused to accept Jewish refugees from Germany

*ALBANIA*

King Zog married the Countess Geraldine Apponyi, a Hungarian, on April 27th.

*HUNGARY*

Recovered old territory from Czechoslovakia on November 2nd.

Germany would not allow Hungary and Poland to obtain a common frontier by dividing up Carpathian Russia.

*JUGOSLAVIA*

Stoyadinovitch abandoned the Czechs to their fate, without uttering a word on their behalf. He had associated national policy with dependence upon Germany. Therefore the LITTLE ENTENTE CEASED TO EXIST.

A puppet Patriarch was nominated to take the place of Varnava, in face of the strong opposition of the Orthodox Church.

*JAPAN*

On January 10th the Japanese took Tsinhtu, on May 19th Suchow.

Britain opened the SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE on February 14th.

October was the most active month of the war. A large force was landed near Hong Kong on October 12th. Canton was taken on October 21st. The Canton-Hankow railway was cut. On October 25th the Japanese occupied Hankow. After that guerilla warfare continued.

In December the United States made a loan to China amounting to 5 million pounds. The British also granted China credits.

### PALESTINE

Mr Malcolm MacDonald flew to Jerusalem in August. A Technical Commission examined the Partition Scheme of the previous year's Royal Commission. Its report reached Parliament on November 9th, and was a rejection of Partition. Government decided to continue Mandatory Administration, but announced a Conference of Jewish and Arab leaders to be held in London.

Large reinforcements of troops were sent in October. General Haining started a vigorous offensive on October 18th.



# THE YEAR OF THE GERMAN AND RUSSIAN WAR ON POLAND, THE RUSSO-FINNISH WAR, AND SECOND WORLD WAR

The Year 1939



## CHIEF EVENTS

LIQUIDATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC BY  
GERMANY AND HUNGARY

The Germans took Memel.

THE ITALIANS ANNEXED ALBANIA.

Capitulation of the Spanish Government to General  
Franco

King George and Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and  
the United States.

The British Government guaranteed the Independence  
of Rumania, Greece and Poland

Failure of the Anglo-Soviet Negotiations.

THE GERMAN-SOVIET NEUTRALITY PACT SIGNED BY  
RIBBENTROP AND MOLOTOV AT MOSCOW

GERMAN INVASION OF POLAND

BRITAIN AND FRANCE AT WAR WITH THE REICH.

Japan U.S.S.R. Armistice.

BOLSHEVIK INVASION OF POLAND

SECOND GERMAN-SOVIET PACT

PARTITION OF POLAND



## GERMANY

**O**N January 20th Schacht was dismissed from the Presidency of the Reichsbank. On January 26th von Ribbentrop arrived in Warsaw to celebrate the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NOV AGRESSION PACT WITH POLAND.

On March 10th the Premier of Slovakia requested German support. He had been dismissed by the President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Hacha. Prague had ordered the arrest of Slovak Separatists and the disarming of the Slovak National Guard. These measures had been taken to forestall a declaration of Slovak independence.

Benes had fled abroad in 1938. His successor, Hacha, was a weak old man. He was summoned to Berlin to give an account of his actions, and on the eve of his departure, March 13th, German troops had already crossed the Czech frontier.

On March 14th, Hacha arrived in Berlin and on the same day signed away the independence of the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Hitler left Germany on March 15th and before evening was in Prague. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS LIQUIDATED.

The gold reserve was removed to Berlin.

The German protectorates of Bohemia and Moravia were set up, with an inexplicit protectorate of Slovakia.

The war booty taken by Germany was very great. Hitler revealed later (in his speech of April 28th) the following figures of arms and munitions taken from Czechoslovakia :

1,582 aeroplanes
501 anti-aircraft guns
2,575 guns
469 armoured cars and tanks
43,876 machine guns
114,000 revolvers
1,090,000 rifles

together with millions of shells, bridge-building materials, radio apparatus, reflectors, transport wagons and civil automobiles.

A week after Prague, on March 22nd, Hitler took very swift action with Lithuania, and on that day INCORPORATED THE MINOR TERRITORY IN THE REICH.

These events caused a stiffening of British policy towards Germany, and a new note sounded in Mr. Chamberlain's BIRMINGHAM SPEECH . . . that England would not tolerate an attempt to dominate Europe. And after the annexation of Albania on April 12th by Italy, Roosevelt on April 15th issued the famous appeal to Hitler and Mussolini to stop . . .

declaration that they would not make armed attack upon any of a series of countries which he named.

The countries mentioned by Roosevelt were:

- Finland
- Estonia
- Latvia
- Sweden, Norway and Denmark
- Holland
- Belgium
- Great Britain
- Ire
- France
- Portugal
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Lichtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Poland
- Hungary
- Rumania
- Jugoslavia
- The U S S R
- Bulgaria
- Greece
- Turkey
- The Arab States
- Syria
- Palestine
- Egypt
- Iran

Hitler did proceed to invite certain northern countries to sign non-aggression pacts, but in his reply to Roosevelt in his speech of April 28th he largely ridiculed the President's appeal. But he stated that throughout the whole of his political activity he had regarded the friendship and co-operation of Britain and Germany as desirable ; the British world empire was important in the interests of humanity at large. Nevertheless, he denounced the Anglo-German Naval Treaty.

In the same speech he DENOUNCED THE PACT OF NON-AGGRESSION WITH POLAND and declared once more that Danzig must be united to the Reich.

Meanwhile Great Britain had entered upon her new policy of guaranteeing small states from aggression : Greece, Rumania, Poland.

On May 5th, under pressure from Berlin, the Jewish Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Litvinov, was dismissed by Stalin. (This happened in the course of negotiations for a pact with Great Britain and France.)

On May 22nd, in Berlin, Ribbentrop and Ciano, in the presence of Hitler, signed the GERMAN-ITALIAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCE.

Section 3 provided that if either state should be attacked by another power or group of powers, the other would come to its assistance with its whole military, naval and air power.



RIBBENTROP AND STALIN MEET IN MOSCOW (1939)  
Molotov signs the new Partition of Poland

*Topical Press*



The great tension over Danzig continued all the summer. On May 28th the League High Commissioner, Burghardt, arrived unexpectedly and had an interview with Herr Graeser, the President of the Senate.

On June 2nd Hitler accorded an impressive reception to the Prince Regent of Jugoslavia.

On June 7th the two border states of the U.S.S.R., Estonia and Latvia, concluded Non Aggression Pacts with Germany. Their objection to being guaranteed by Britain and the U.S.S.R. was one of the alleged obstacles in the way of Britain and the U.S.S.R. signing a pact. The border states preferred to be secured by Germany.

June 18th, Goebbels in Danzig

June 28th, volunteers began to arrive in Danzig from East Prussia. An army of volunteers was being formed, and there were about 2,000 up to date.

On July 4th Hitler and Mussolini agreed as to the removal of Germans from the Italian Tyrol

On July 5th the Premier of Bulgaria, potential enemy of Rumania, from whom she claimed the Dobrudja (lost as a result of the second Balkan War), arrived in Berlin to confer with Hitler.

On July 12th Herr Förster, leader of the Danzig Nazis, visited Hitler to report on the militant organisations in Danzig and to receive direction. After his visit the transport of war material to Danzig increased.

August was the chief month of atrocities and border incidents, the shooting of Poles and Germans in border frays, utilised by the Reich propaganda minister to make a strong case against the Poles. Warsaw issued persistent *dementis*.

Herr Forster was named, by Hitler, head of the Danzig state.

As a precaution against a general war, in which France and Britain would fulfil their obligations to defend Poland, on August 23rd, GERMANY SIGNED A NEUTRALITY PACT WITH THE U.S.S.R.

*Article 2 of the Pact* provided that in case of war neither the U.S.S.R. nor Germany would in any way support a third power.

*Article 4* provided that neither Germany nor the U.S.S.R. would join any other group of powers which directly or indirectly menaced either Germany or the U.S.S.R.

This pact rendered null and void the negotiations being entered into by France and Britain with the U.S.S.R. to obtain military assistance in case of a German invasion of Poland.

At the same time it partly invalidated the Anti-Comintern Pact and rendered meaningless the German understanding with Japan. But Hitler complimented the German Foreign Office on its adroitness.

On August 24th the British Parliament was called, and Chamberlain notified Germany that

he stood fast by the guarantee to Poland, even lacking the co-operation of the U S S R General war preparations ensued both on the part of Germany and of the western democracies

On August 26th began the Hitler Chamberlain correspondence on the alternatives of peace or war President Roosevelt and the Pope made appeals for a peaceful settlement King Leopold and Queen Wilhelmina made offers of mediation

On August 29th Hitler asked that a Polish plenipotentiary be sent to Berlin to sign terms of settlement.

Late on August 31st Berlin announced that as Poland had had the terms for forty-eight hours and had not replied, the peace proposal must be considered as rejected

Early in the morning of September 1st, Danzig was proclaimed united to the Reich, Gdynia was closed, troops invaded Polish territory, Warsaw and other cities and fortresses were bombed from the air It was the beginning of the GERMAN-POLISH WAR.

ON SEPTEMBER 3RD BRITAIN AND FRANCE DECLARED A STATE OF WAR TO EXIST BETWEEN THEM AND GERMANY, Britain at 11 a.m., France at 5 p.m.

On September 29th Germany and the Soviet Union signed a new pact, partitioning Poland

On October 6th, in the Reichstag, Hitler made his first peace overtures to the Western Powers

*SOVIET RUSSIA*

The 18th Congress of the Communist Party took place. On March 10th in an important speech, Stalin accused the non-aggressive countries of abandoning the victims of aggression and **EGGING THE GERMANS ON TO MARCH FURTHER EAST.** Among the tasks of the Communist Party he mentioned the following :

“ To be cautious and not allow our country to be drawn into conflicts by warmongers who are accustomed to have others pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them.”

Following upon the annexation of Albania on April 12th, Great Britain enquired what the U.S.S.R. was prepared to undertake with a view to protecting Rumania from aggression. Litvinof proposed a conference of the powers at Bucharest, but that was not considered likely to succeed.

A joint guarantee of the independence of eastern states was required from the U.S.S.R. by Britain and France and soon negotiations were entered into for obtaining a **BRITISH-FRENCH-SOVIET PACT.**

In order to slow down this movement Stalin dismissed Litvinof on May 5th. Molotov, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, became Commissar for Foreign Affairs.

The British and French ambassadors in Moscow

placed their proposals before Molotov, but they were unable to make any real headway. On June 17th the British sent Mr Strang, a Foreign Office official and expert, to try and clear away difficulties and bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

During the second week in August, it was suggested from Moscow that a military understanding might pave the way for a pact. France and Britain decided to send high military and naval officers for a confidential exchange of views. The delegates arrived on August 12th and were received by Molotov.

The Anglo-French plan of campaign and the part which Soviet Russia might play in the case of a German invasion of Poland were discussed. The talks were continually adjourned and resumed again. No statement of the reason for not coming to a speedy understanding was published.

Meanwhile, emissaries of Germany were openly negotiating an economic treaty with the U.S.S.R., and secretly a military understanding.

During the period of these deliberations another purge of the Soviet army took place, and many officers were removed from their posts.

On August 19th the ECONOMIC TREATY WITH GERMANY was signed in Berlin. Extensive credits were granted to the U.S.S.R., which

agreed to supply the Reich with raw materials to the value of 180 million marks.

*Izvestia* said that this treaty would not be without political significance.

The combined military talks with French and British continued.

On the 21st a NEUTRALITY PACT WITH GERMANY was announced from Berlin and on the following day confirmed from Moscow. Still the staff talks continued.

Herr von Ribbentrop, accompanied by a large technical staff, went by air to Moscow, and on the evening of August 23rd, signed the NEUTRALITY PACT. Molotof signed on behalf of the Soviet Republic, and Stalin witnessed the deed. It came into effect upon signature.

The two states agreed to co-operate in matters relative to their common interest, and not to join any power or group of powers hostile to either Germany or the U.S.S.R.

On September 16th, the unofficial war with Japan on the Mongolian border came to an end, when an ARMISTICE WITH JAPAN was signed in Moscow.

On September 17th the U.S.S.R. DENOUNCED THE NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH POLAND. The Soviet army invaded Poland, making common cause with the Germans, who in a war of less than three weeks had in effect destroyed the Polish army.

On September 29th the U S S R signed a new treaty with Germany, partitioning Poland On the same day the Soviet assumed a protectorate over Estonia.

On October 11th the U.S.S.R. agreed to give Vilna to Lithuania.

At the same time delegates from Finland were summoned to Moscow

On November 28th the U.S.S.R. denounced the 1921 Non-Aggression Pact with Finland On November 30th Finland was invaded by the Soviet.

On December 14th the U S S R. was EXPELLED FROM THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

### *FRANCE*

To counteract the Fascist agitation, M. Daladier visited Corsica on January 2nd and gave a solemn pledge to Corsicans , he visited Tunis the following day

Chamberlain and Halifax were in Paris on January 10th, and the Fascist agitation against France was allowed to decrease because Mr Chamberlain was to visit Mussolini and ask for a common-sense solution to the Franco-Italian conflict.

But the Italian Press agitation against France was resumed on January 16th.

On March 23rd, the French President, Lebrun, was received in London.

On March 26th Mussolini reminded France of outstanding claims (Jibuti, Tunis, Suez).

Lebrun was re-elected President of the Republic on April 5th.

April 13th, joint guarantee for Greece and Rumania, in co-operation with Britain.

April 16th, apprehension of an attack upon Tangier and Gibraltar.

April 18th, the Transatlantic liner PARIS DESTROYED BY FIRE at Havre : sabotage suspected.

April 28th, warships sent to defence of Straits of Gibraltar.

June 15th, loss of the submarine *Phoenix*.

June 23rd, Treaty of mutual support with Turkey signed. It was agreed to co-operate in defence of interests in the Mediterranean. Alexandretta was ceded to Turkey and ceased to be a French mandated territory.

Turkey and France declared the necessity of ensuring stability in the Balkans.

Italy resumed agitation against France, now in regard to the cession of Alexandretta. On July 1st all Italian nationals living in French territory, except those on diplomatic and consular service, were recalled to Italy. Many thousand Italians left during the first week of July.

On July 6th the French Chief of Staff, General Gamelin, arrived in London for consultation.

On July 9th M. Bonnet announced that a Triple Pact between France, Britain and the USSR was on the point of being concluded, a pact without guarantees of the Baltic states. But the French Ambassador in Moscow continued to encounter difficulties. In August it was decided to send a military mission, as France and Britain were confident that, pact or no pact, the Soviet Union would resist a German advance in the east. The military delegates, who arrived in Moscow on August 12th, were empowered to decide upon a plan of united action. On August 19th the French were surprised by the German diplomatic success at their expense, the announcement of a GERMAN-SOVIET NEUTRALITY PACT. In a few days the military mission left Moscow, and the French Ambassador went to Paris to explain the failure of the negotiations.

The German Pact precipitated the European crisis. But on August 25th the French Ambassador in Berlin, M. Coulondre, made a last appeal to Hitler to start direct negotiations with Poland, deplored that German and French blood might have to be shed unless there should be a peaceful arrangement. The Führer replied by letter to Daladier on August 26th, blaming Great Britain for encouraging Poland.

On August 28th the Franco-German frontier at

Strasbourg was closed. Censorship of Press and broadcasting was set up.

Poland was invaded on the morning of September 1st. French delay in declaring war on Germany was caused by a proposal put forward by the Italian Government that hostilities should cease, and that there should be called a Five Power Conference to settle a dispute.

France, however, followed Britain's lead on September 3rd, when at 5 p.m. diplomatic relations with Germany were broken off. **FRANCE AT WAR WITH GERMANY, SEPTEMBER 3RD.**

On September 13th M. Bonnet ceased to be Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Daladier included under his personal control the Foreign and the War ministries. The Communist Party was liquidated, and on October 1st all its property was seized by the State.

On December 29th M. Daladier pronounced in favour of **FEDERATION IN EUROPE** as ultimate war-aim, declaring actual unity of British and French Governments.

### *POLAND*

January 26th, the Fifth Anniversary of the German-Polish Non-Aggression Pact. Banquet in honour of Herr von Ribbentrop at Warsaw. A month later, on February 26th, Count Ciano was feted in Warsaw.

German Press agitation against Poland was let loose on March 28th, and German military activity was observed. Mr Neville Chamberlain, on March 31st, gave assurance of support in case Polish independence should be menaced. Despite German threats, the Polish Foreign Minister, Colonel Beck, arrived in London on April 3rd to discuss Anglo-Polish co-operation.

#### On April 28th HITLER DENOUNCED THE NON-AGGRESSION PACT

#### On May 2nd, SPEECH BY COLONEL BECK, ANSWERING HITLER.

In June Herr Förster began to organise the volunteer bands of Danzig Nazis, these began to be reinforced from East Prussia on June 29th. Frontier incidents occurred throughout the summer and were used by Dr Goebbels as atrocity material for domestic propaganda. On July 7th Britain announced large credits to Poland for defence armament.

Poland showed herself as indifferent to the negotiations for Russian assistance which were prolonged throughout the summer, and when these negotiations finally broke down on August 23rd, the Soviet Commissar for War, Voroshilov, blamed Poland.

Attempts were made to keep the peace of Europe and Hitler seemed to hesitate. On August 9th the Berlin wireless announced the German terms of settlement but at the same time

stated that it considered them as rejected, as *no answer had been received*. It appeared later that they had never been communicated. **WAR BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 1ST.**

Poland was over-run during the first weeks of September. Gdynia fell on September 13th, Warsaw on September 29th. The Soviet Union began to issue State propaganda against the ill-treatment of Russian minorities on September 12th. It declared the Polish state to have ceased to exist on September 17th, and that therefore the Non-Aggression Pact of 1932 had become invalid. The **BOLSHEVIK INVASION OF POLAND** began on September 17th.

By September 29th all Poland was over-run, and resistance was at an end. Germany and the U.S.S.R. agreed to divide the territory.

In October a new Polish Government was constituted on French soil with General Sikorski as Prime Minister.

#### SPAIN

Fall of Tortosa, January 13th; fall of Tarragona, January 15th; fall of Barcelona, January 26th.

Masses of refugees entered France at the end of January and beginning of February. The British negotiated the surrender of Minorca on February 8th.

Franco's government recognised as that of Spain on February 27th

#### MADRID SURRENDERED ON MARCH 28TH

On March 29th it was announced that the whole of Spain had submitted to General Franco

On September 6th Spain declared her neutrality in the European War

#### ITALY

April 6th Three Italian warships arrived at Durazzo in Albania.

April 10th Italian troops took Tirana and other towns in Albania King Zog and Queen Geraldine fled to Turkey April 12th, ANNEXATION OF ALBANIA. The King of Italy, Emperor of Ethiopia, named also King of Albania on April 14th.

On April 15th Italy received ROOSEVELT'S APPEAL for a promise of non-aggression to small nations.

On April 18th Count Ciano declared that friendship with Jugoslavia would continue to be one of the fundamental principles of Italian foreign policy On the following day the Jugoslav Foreign Minister conferred with Ciano at Venice

In the middle of May, Prince Paul of Jugoslavia and his Foreign Minister visited Italy and

conferred with Mussolini concerning Jugoslav security after the annexation of Albania.

On May 15th Mussolini made his SPEECH AT TURIN, taken as Italy's rejoinder to President Roosevelt. It was moderate in tone.

On May 22nd Ciano and Ribbentrop signed the ITALIAN-GERMAN MILITARY ALLIANCE.

May 31st, departure of Italian legionaries from Spain.

July 12th, Grandi recalled from London embassy to become Minister for Justice. Italy represented in London by a chargé d'affaires.

At this time Italy began to take measures to evict all foreigners from the Tyrol.

July 14th, Italy protested against the relinquishment of Alexandretta to Turkey.

On August 11th and 12th Count Ciano had long conversations with Hitler and Ribbentrop about the Danzig plan of campaign and the part Italy would play in the case of Britain and France honouring their obligations to Poland.

On August 23rd Gayda praised the conclusion of the German-Soviet Pact as adroit.

On September 1st Hitler thanked Italy for support but said he did not require military aid from her to settle the Polish conflict.

On September 2nd Italy proposed a Five Power Conference in order to regain peace

The proposal was rejected and Britain and France entered into a state of war with Germany

On October 1st Count Ciano visited Hitler, but returned next day, having, it appears, declined to take the initiative in a new appeal for European peace. Subsequently the Fascist Grand Council affirmed that the alliance with Germany still held good. On December 16th Count Ciano expressed the first Italian criticism of the Soviet German Pact.

### JAPAN

On March 2nd the Japanese erected live-wire barricades around the Tientsin Foreign Concessions of England and France, with a view to enforcing a blockade. On March 3rd, Anglo-French protests.

In order to support the Chinese currency, Britain announced a 5 million pounds credit for China, March 8th

On March 10th the Japanese decreed the Chinese dollar not legal tender in Northern China. THE CURRENCY WAR BEGAN

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Throughout August the British endeavoured to limit the discussions in Tokyo to considerations of public order in Northern China, but the Japanese demanded the co-operation of Great Britain in liquidating the Chinese currency. There were anti-British demonstrations in Tokyo. The Japanese adopted an aggressive tone, and had begun to threaten a blockade of Hong Kong when the German-Soviet Pact was announced.

There was an undeclared local war of the Soviet against Japan on the Mongolian border, but the pact liberated Soviet Russia from the menace of war with Germany.

After August 23rd Japanese foreign policy underwent a modification, the Premier resigned on August 28th and a new ministry was formed by General Abo. Japan withdrew her ambassador from Berlin, and it began to appear that she had ceased to be more than a nominal member of the Anti-Comintern Pact.

### *GREAT BRITAIN*

On January 10th Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Halifax were in Paris on their way to visit Mussolini in Rome on January 11th. Mr. Chamberlain had a long conversation with Pope Pius XI.

On January 16th took place the first I.R.A. terrorist explosions

On January 25th the Voluntary National Service Campaign opened

On February 7th the PALESTINE CONFERENCE began in London

The Pope died on February 11th and the new Pope, Pius XII (Cardinal Pacelli), was elected on March 2nd

Following German occupation of Czechoslovakia, Mr Chamberlain made his BIRMINGHAM SPEECH on March 17th ("One thing I would not sacrifice for peace, and that is liberty")

On March 23rd Mr R S Hudson arrived in Moscow The French President, Lebrun, was received in London

On March 31st Mr Chamberlain announced that Britain would go to the support of Poland when her independence was menaced There was at once some agitation in favour of obtaining a similar guarantee for Poland from the U.S.S.R., and on April 3rd Mr Lloyd George asked the Government to "take immediate steps to secure the adhesion of Russia." He said, also, "Without the help of Russia we are walking into a trap"

On April 14th Sir John Simon said the Government were not opposed in principle to a military alliance of Britain, France and the U.S.S.R.

On April 15th the German naval manoeuvres in Spanish waters began to cause some apprehension of an attack upon Gibraltar.

On May 12th the TREATY WITH TURKEY was announced.

On May 17th King George and Queen Elizabeth arrived at Quebec, and the Canadian tour commenced. On June 8th the KING AND QUEEN WERE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

The British proposals for a settlement in Palestine were made public on March 17th. Neither Arabs nor Jews accepted them, and there was a fresh outbreak of terrorism.

The League of Nations meeting was postponed from May 13th to the 22nd to allow Moscow time to send Potemkin to discuss an Anglo-Soviet Pact at Geneva. Moscow would not send a representative, other than Maisky from London. So no progress was made in these negotiations.

#### June 2nd, LOSS OF THE SUBMARINE "TULIB."

Attention was directed to the greater menace of Japan to British interests by the BLOCADING OF TIENSIN which began on June 13th.

On June 29th Lord Halifax addressed a memorandum to Germany defending Britain from the charge of pursuing a policy of encirclement.

Military National service was introduced and on July 15th the First 30,000 Militiamen were

**CALLED UP** Meanwhile, General Gamelin came to London on July 6th to confer on military plans

The negotiations for an Anglo-Soviet Pact were sabotaged in Moscow, despite the arrival there in June of an expert from the Foreign Office, Mr Strang. Although on June 29th Lord Halifax was optimistic, the obstructionism continued. In August the original proposals were temporarily shelved to allow a military mission to discuss plans of campaign in support of Poland. The delegation arrived on August 12th.

Mr Chamberlain had resisted the plea of Opposition leaders that Parliament should remain in session until the Anglo-Soviet Pact was signed, and members were on holiday when in Moscow the very opposite of that Pact was achieved, and on August 23rd the SOVIET-GERMAN PACT was signed.

The German menace to Poland increased hourly, and with it the danger of world war. Parliament was recalled on August 24th. Hitler requested Sir Nevile Henderson to come to him on August 25th, and, after half an hour's conversation with the Führer, the British ambassador departed for London to make a communication.

On that day a formal TREATY OF ALLIANCE WITH POLAND was signed.

On August 28th the British reply to Hitler's communication was approved and despatched. The Mediterranean Sea was closed to British shipping as a precaution. The British Ambassador telephoned from Berlin about midnight. On the following day there was in the evening another communication from Hitler.

On August 30th, in the evening, von Ribben-trop read to Sir Nevile Henderson the sixteen points of a supposed German plan of settlement ; he read them very hastily and furnished no written copy.

On the 31st these sixteen points were read out on the Berlin radio which announced that as the Poles had not answered or sent a plenipotentiary to accept terms, they were considered as rejected. On the following morning Germany invaded Poland. That was on September 1st. On SEPTEMBER 3RD BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY.

### *OTHER COUNTRIES IN 1939*

AMERICA lost the submarine *Squalus* on May 23rd. There was a wild reception of the King and Queen of England in New York, and the President received their Majesties at the White House in Washington on June 8th. Roosevelt, throughout the year worked for European peace, and made his resounding appeal to the dictators on April 15th. In August he appealed to Italy. America was also much disturbed by Japanese aggression and transferred a number of warships from the Atlantic to the Pacific service, but made no naval demonstration. During the summer the President sought to have the Neutrality Act revoked, so that it might be possible to support the democracies in their coming struggle, but his efforts were defeated. Not only did the U.S.A. proclaim her neutrality in the war, but the Neutrality Act was invoked, and an embargo placed upon aeroplanes and munitions waiting to be shipped to Europe.

### *JUGOSLAVIA*

Stoyadinovitch, the architect of the pro-Axis policy, fell on February 5th and Tsvetkovitch became Premier, with the task of reconciling Croats and Serbs. The Regent visited Hitler, Mussolini and the King of England, but he was steadfast in a policy of neutrality. Facing the danger of war, the Serbs and Croats made up their differences and the Croat leader entered the cabinet in August. Jugoslavia had a united political front. On September 6th, the Government announced strict neutrality in the war.

*HUNGARY*

Joined the Anti-Comintern Pact on January 13th, Premier Imredy resigned on February 15th, because his ancestry had been shown to have a Jewish tinge. On February 24th the Hungarian Nazi Party was dissolved by decree. Hungary recovered her minority population and territory in Slovakia, but was thwarted by Berlin when she wished to take all Carpathian Russia and set up a common frontier with Poland. Nevertheless, she continued to collaborate with the Axis in its larger European policy.

*TURKEY*

Treaties of mutual assistance were signed with Britain and France. Credits were granted by Great Britain, Turkey received back the Sanjak of Alexandretta. Von Papen failed to bring Turkey on to the side of the Axis, and when war broke out she affirmed her loyalty to Britain and France. Further attempts were made by the U.S.S.R. to detach Turkey from the western democracies, but were withstood by the Foreign Minister, M. Sarajoglu.

The year closed for Turkey with the great national disaster of earthquake and flood.

*BULGARIA*

Still claimed the Dobrudja from Rumania. Although friendship for Jugoslavia was still professed, it seemed as though the desire for treaty revision was not dead. It was one of the few nations which abominated the German-Soviet Pact.

*RUMANIA*

Concluded trade agreements both with Germany and with Britain. Her independence was guaranteed and she received credits. Relations with Hungary were never friendly, owing to unsatisfied revisionist claims on the part of Hungary. Hungary refused to sign a non-aggression pact in August, but proposed special measures for the protection of minorities. Rumania refused to entertain this proposal. The conclusion of the Soviet-German Pact caused Rumania to increase her military defences of Bessarabia, Russian territory which might yet be claimed by the Soviet Union.





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January Mr. Ramsay MacDonald would become Prime Minister.

In the summer work was begun upon the construction of the SINGAPORE BASE.

### *THE SOVIET UNION*

The name of Russia was abolished. Russia became the UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS, called the U.S.S.R. for short.

The New Economic Policy remained in full swing, but Lenin was ill and had little grasp. Stalin was General Secretary of the Communist Party, a position which gave him the chance to organise an intrigue against Trotsky.

Trotsky urged the dismissal of Stalin, but the paralysed Communist dictator had no strength to cope with Kremlin intrigue.

THE YEAR OF THE DAWES PLAN  
THE YEAR 1924

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CHIEF EVENTS

- THE DEATH OF LENIN
- FIRST LABOUR GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN
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- Killing of Malibot.
- The Wembley Exhibition.
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## *GREAT BRITAIN*

**O**N January 21st a vote of no confidence was carried, Mr Baldwin resigned and Mr MacDonald became Prime Minister, the FIRST LABOUR GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE

On February 2nd Great Britain granted *de jure* recognition to Soviet Russia Rakovsky became ambassador (sentenced to twenty years imprisonment in 1938)

In the summer there was an Anglo-Soviet Conference in London trying to formulate a treaty The Bolsheviks stood out for a substantial loan In August the Foreign Secretary, Mr Ponsonby, announced that agreement had been reached, and that the proposed Anglo-Soviet Treaty would be based on the principle of a loan In October Mr MacDonald went to the country to get a mandate for this treaty

On the morning of October 25th the Foreign Office published the notorious ZINOVIEV LETTER

Mr MacDonald was beaten at the polls, though he retained 151 seats The LIBERAL PARTY in Parliament SHRANK to 44 MEMBERS. Mr Baldwin resumed the Premiership The Soviet Treaty was dropped Work on the

Singapore Base, which had been suspended by the Labour Government, was continued.

This was also the year of the WEMBLEY EXHIBITION.

In August Joseph Conrad died. In November Sir Lee Stack, the Sirdar of Egypt, was murdered in Cairo.

This year the tomb of Tutankhamen was revealed.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

On January 21st LENIN DIED. The struggle for power of Stalin, Trotsky, Zinovief and Kamenev commenced. Stalin, having purged the Communist Party of hostile elements, emerged as the strongest personality.

Zinovief had the name of St. Petersburg changed once more, to Leningrad.

On February 2nd Rikof was elected to Lenin's place as President of the Soviets. On the same day Great Britain granted full recognition to the U.S.S.R.

On February 7th Italy recognised the U.S.S.R. Besides Britain and Italy, Norway, Austria, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, China, Mexico and France all granted *de jure* recognition this year.

### *UNITED STATES*

A more stringent IMMIGRATION ACT was enacted. Maximum immigration was fixed at 150,000.

persons, a quota of 2 per cent of the immigration figures of 1890. The damming of the flow of Europeans into America is an important fact to be related to the demand of some nations in later years for LIVING ROOM.

The Presidential Elections took place this year, and Calvin Coolidge was re-elected by an overwhelming majority over the representative of the still discredited Democratic Party.

### FRANCE

The Left Wing tendency noticeable in Britain had its counterpart in France where POINCARÉ RESIGNED and Herriot became Premier. The President Millerand was also forced to resign and his place was taken by Doumergue. The Government was Radical-Socialist and Socialist, the *Cartel des Gauches*.

M. Herriot accorded unconditional recognition to the Soviet Union.

The French commenced evacuation of the Ruhr valley.

### GERMANY

In the elections in May, 62 Communists won seats in the Reichstag, representing some three million votes.

The committee of experts, under the chairmanship of Reginald McKenna and General Dawes, produced its report on April 10th. The DAWES

PLAN was accepted and put into operation in August. A LOAN OF 800,000,000 GOLD MARKS, £40,000,000, was made available for Germany.

Adolf Hitler was sentenced to five years' imprisonment because of his *putsch* in the previous year. He was received in prison with great respect and started writing *Mein Kampf*.

### GREECE

On January 4th Venizelos returned to Greece and became Prime Minister on January 11th. But he did not have adequate national support, and again fled into exile in March. Nevertheless, the country voted for a republic in April, and King George abandoned the throne.

### ITALY

There was still a shadow of democracy though it was being eliminated. In the April elections the Socialist opposition still had the right to vote, but the Fascist majority was large. In June the Socialist leader Matteoti was kidnapped and killed. Mussolini denounced the crime, which was, however, committed by supporters of the regime. In September a Fascist deputy was murdered.

### AUSTRALIA

Financial difficulties continued, and the League of Nations guaranteed a loan of £30,000,000.

THE YEAR OF THE BEGINNING OF  
STALIN REGIME IN U.S.S.R.

THE YEAR 1925



*CHIEF EVENTS*

The Treaty of Locarno

HINDENBURG BECAME PRESIDENT OF GERMANY

Trotsky was dismissed from Soviet War Ministry



## GREAT BRITAIN

THE TIMES said that the year 1925 was likely to be remembered as that of Locarno, and that the name of Locarno might be blessed by many generations 1925 was the most peaceful year, and the one of most hope for international agreement and understanding since the Armistice.

The Locarno Conference met in October. The Pact was signed in London on December 1st. It made provision for Germany to enter the League of Nations in the following year. It confirmed existing frontiers of France, Belgium and Germany, and these frontiers were guaranteed by Britain and Italy. It became illegal to resort to armed force without reference to the League of Nations.

M. Briand expressed his conviction that the Pact of Locarno would lead to a "United States of Europe."

On December 1st, Great Britain began the evacuation of her troops from Cologne.

## GERMANY

In February the Socialist President Frederick Ebert died. On April 26th Field-Marshal von

HINDENBURG was ELECTED PRESIDENT of the Reich. The opposition candidates for the Presidency were Wilhelm Marx and the Communist, Ernst Thälmann. The final election figures were

Hindenburg	14,655,641
Marx	13,751,605
Thälmann	1,931,151

Von Ludendorf denounced von Hindenburg as a traitor. Hitler, released from prison, renewed his political activity. In February he re-organised the National Socialist Party and became FÜHRER both of this and of the German Folk Freedom Party.

By August the complete evacuation of the Ruhr valley had taken place. In December Germany signed the Locarno Pact.

### *SOVIET RUSSIA*

In January Trotsky ceased to be Commissar for War. Zinoviev denounced Trotskyism. In the late autumn both Zinoviev and Kamenev were removed from office. STALIN by manipulation of the Communist Party had become VIRTUAL DICTATOR.

On December 17th a Pact of Neutrality and Friendship was concluded with the Turkish republic.

The Locarno Pact was criticised with violent hostility. Chicherin, the Foreign Secretary,

made a tour of the capitals of Europe to obtain re-assurance for the U S S R

### *ITALY*

The Fascist Government took control of the Press and started a rule by decree.

In October there was an armed campaign against the Masons. As a result the Italian Grand Master ordered the DISSOLUTION OF ALL MASONIC LODGES in Italy.

A trade treaty with Germany was signed in November

### *KINGDOM OF SERBES, CROATS AND SLOVAKES*

Temporary peace was made between the Croats and the Serbs at the inclusion of Stevan Raditch and other Hungarian Croats in the ministry

### *Egypt*

Lord Lloyd ~~came to~~

### *EGYPT*

Revolutionary forces were still in power the year. General Esmond was sent to the court of King Fouad. The last Conference E

Canton placed an embargo on British shipping. The Japanese increased the number of their forces in Manchuria.

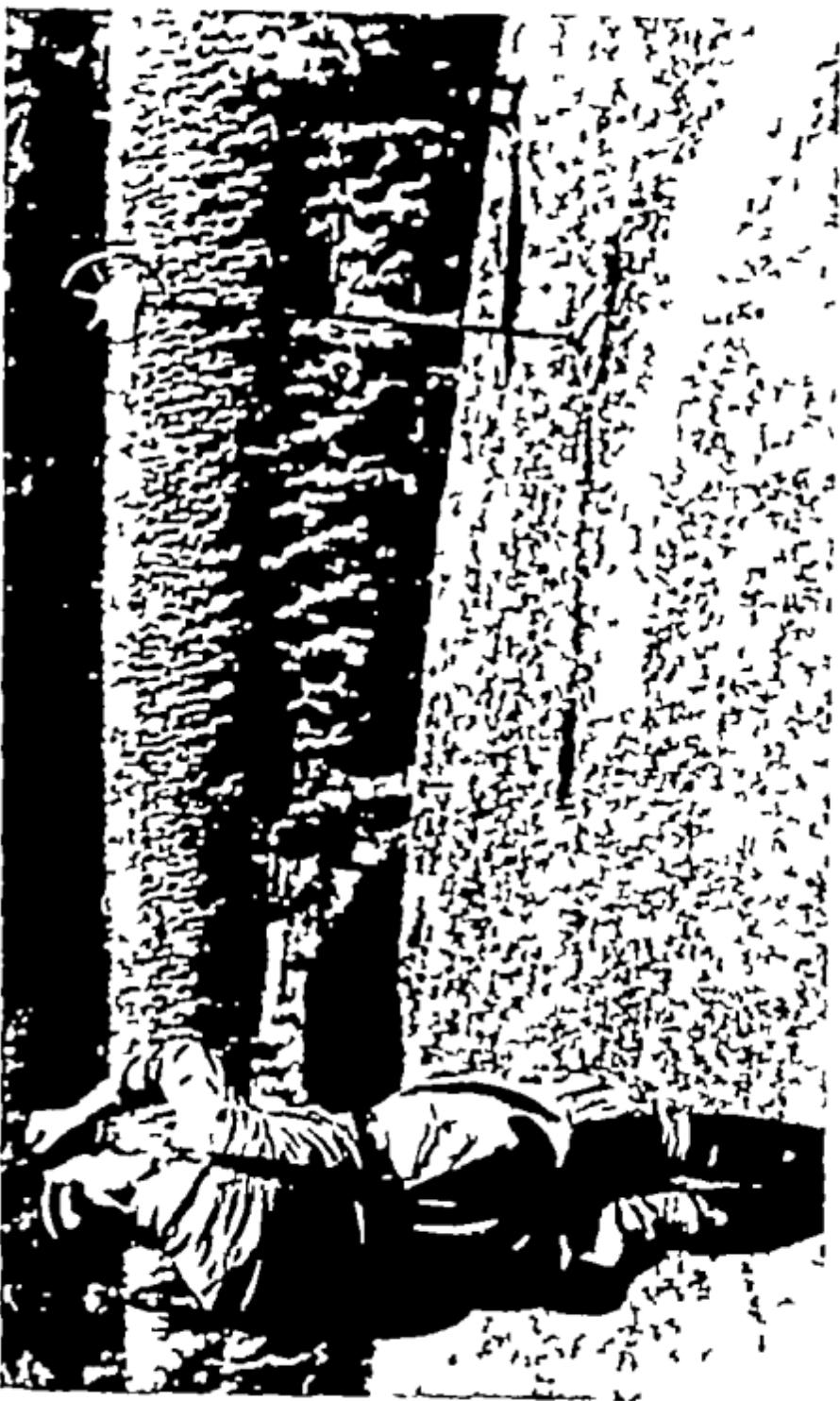
In March, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, head of the Kuomintang (Republican Revolutionary Party), died.

### *INDIA*

Mr. Edward Wood (later created Lord Irwin) became Viceroy.

Nehru was elected leader of the Swarajist Party.

HITLER ADDRESSES HIS MASSED SUPPORTERS





THE YEAR OF THE GENERAL STRIKE  
IN BRITAIN  
THE YEAR 1926



*CHIEF EVENTS*

GERMANY ENTERED THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

GENERAL STRIKE IN BRITAIN

Financial Crisis in France, owing to fall of franc  
to 235

Herriot resigned, and Poincaré rescued the franc.  
Death of Pashitch.

IN POLAND, PILSUDSKI BECAME DICTATOR.